

September 2010



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF RAYTOWN

First Word

What is Next?

We heard many impressive reports and celebrated many great accomplishments since we started our Wednesday Night Alive program in April 2009. Who knew that one small group could produce so many results in such a short time? Fourteen new members! Hope Kitchen! Lighthouse for Kids! Youth Ministry! Lay Leadership training "Rethink." Can we do more? No, we can't! I think, we shouldn't do more until we truly change and become the Church.

Why can't we? Why shouldn't we? Don't we have those signs of fruitfulness that our Bishop is talking about? Radical Hospitality – Passionate Worship – Extravagant Giving – Risk-Taking Mission – Intentional Faith

Sermon Series

Seven Deadly Sins Sermon Series starting September 5th

September 5 *What is Evil?*

September 12 *Anger*

September 19 *Suffering Evil, doing Evil*

September 26 *Sloth*

October 3 *Evil Spelled Backward is... Live*

October 10 *Lust*

October 17 *Greed*

October 25 *The Ground of Evil Is Dread*

November 1 *Gluttony*

November 8 *Envy*

November 15 *Pride*

November 22 *Scales of Evil*

Development, remember what I am talking about? The first fruits cannot mask what is missing in our church. "There is *one* body, and *one* Spirit, even as you were called in *one* hope of your calling; *one* Lord, *one* faith, *one* baptism, *one* God and Father of all who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Ephesians 4:4-6. Twelve people can do a lot, but we need all our members to be of one Spirit and of one calling to transform our church otherwise we are not the church of Christ.

Our Wednesday Night Alive group studied Adam Hamilton's book *Seeing Grey in a World of Black and White* at the beginning of this year. The most important question was to ponder why Christianity has become a wedge that drives people from Christ, rather than drawing them to him. Churches are polarized because Christians treat each other in distractive ways. Every time I take a new member into our church, I ask myself, how will this person be treated when I am not around and how soon this woman or man will leave. How can I, as a pastor, prevent rude comments, arrogant attitude, and yelling that makes normal people want to run away? How many people left the church because they refused to be treated in unchristian way?

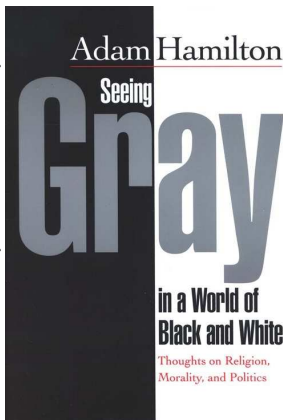
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Ephesians 4:32
Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

What's Next Continued from page One

Adam Hamilton writes, “part of the polarization we are experiencing in our country today is a result of pastors and church leaders who have abandoned the teachings of Jesus and the apostles regarding the way we speak of those with whom we disagree. Part of the healing of our nation must come from the



church modeling for our society how we are to love those with whom we disagree. Right now we're modeling for society how we destroy with our words and actions those we disagree with.”

What do we model as a church? Our church in Raytown seems to be a very divided church for the same reason: we do not love those with whom we disagree. And what is that topic that causes most of anger? While Adam Hamilton is trying to unite Methodists and teach them to accept different positions on evolution, homosexuality, abortion and etc, our church con-

tinues arguing about the money, and arguing about the money, we see the world as black and white only; we see the world in dollars and cents. There is little space left for love and acceptance. Do we even remember why we are here?

What is next? We should look into the core of the problem and decide whether the disease can be cured. Wednesday Night Alive is a place for healing and frank conversations. Let's begin the healing! Let's go back to the Source of life and love and get united before we ask God to bless our fruits.

September Meetings and Church Conference

Remember when you need to schedule a meeting to call or email the church office. Several groups use the building during the week and on weekends. There is usually room for all, but there are those times when no space is available. Please be courteous and kind to the groups when you encounter them and offer them the Radical Hospital-

ity you would expect to receive if you were the visitor.

September Meetings

Staff Parish Relations Committee
September 7th 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
September 23rd 7:00 p.m.

For 2010 Church Conference we will be hosting three churches at First UMC on Wednesday October 6th starting at 7:00 p.m.

This gathering will be in the sanctuary and following we will provide a short fellowship time with refreshments for all the churches in attendance.

Hope Kitchen

First United Methodist Church's Hope Kitchen serves free meals on Saturdays from 12:30-1:30 in Fellowship Hall. We do not check ID's, nor do we ask about your income. There is a basket for a love offering if you are able, but this is not necessary.

Come every Saturday starting at 12:30 and get a nutritious dinner for yourself and your family. 12:30-1:30 are the new hours! Spread the word. Come on In. Rides can be arranged. For more information please call 816-356-2027 by Friday.



Volunteers are always welcome, sign up to work a Saturday or contact Ian Via.

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Wed Night Alive 6:30 Youth Group 6:30	2	3	4 Hope Kitchen CLOSED
5 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30	6 Labor Day No Scouts	7 Game Day 10 am SPPR 6:30 Scouts 7 pm	8 Scouts Committee Mtg. Wed Night Alive 6:30 Youth Group 6:30	9	10	11 Hope Kitchen 12:30-1:30
12 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30	13	14	15 Wed Night Alive 6:30 Youth Group 6:30	16	17	18 Hope Kitchen 12:30-1:30
19 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30	20 Scouts 7pm	21 Game Day 10 am Scouts 7 pm	22 Wed Night Alive 6:30 Youth Group 6:30	23 Church Council 7 pm	24	25 Hope Kitchen 12:30-1:30
26 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 UMW at noon	27 Scouts 7pm	28 Pack Meeting 7 pm	29 Wed Night Alive 6:30 Youth Group 6:30	30		

Festival of Sharing

October 16th 2010

Starts 8 a.m.

Ends at 3 p.m.

An interfaith in-gathering for hands on mission. Over 3,000 persons from churches all over the state attend, bringing their



collected cash and material goods for ministry projects. The event includes a quilt auction, church food booths, sacking of beans, rice and potatoes, informa-

tional displays, sales of crafts and fresh breads, YouthFest, KidFest, worship, and the collection, packing, and distribution of material resources.

Missouri State Fairgrounds
2503 W 16th Street Sedalia, MO

Youth Group

The Youth Group will be gathering on Wednesday nights at 6:30 for youth group.



A Youth Group Parents meeting will be held Monday night August 30th at 6:30 p.m.

Please plan to attend this important planning meeting. Questions? Please call the church office 356-2027.

How many can you answer?

1. A large building that serves as the head church of a bishop is known as a _____.
2. What Old Testament queen's name has come to symbolize sinfulness?
3. Who is considered the Parton Saint of funeral directors?
4. What is the largest Pentecostal denomination in the United States
5. How many books of the Old Testament are referred to as the Torah?
6. What do we call the bowl or basin used for holding water for baptism?
7. I was one of the best know gospel singers in the 20th century who also performed with famous jazz bands? I sang at the inauguration of President Kennedy. At my funeral in 1972, singer Aretha sang "Precious Lord?"
8. The Jewish ruling council that condemned Jesus and handed him over to the Romans was called? _____.
9. What Prophet has a vision of a valley full of dry bones?
10. What film from 1963 has Sidney Poitier playing an American working helping a group of German nuns build a chapel?



1. Cathedral
2. Jezebel, the scheming idol worshiping wife of King Abab of Israel. She promoted her own religion at the expense of the worship of God and his prophets, and met a gory end.
3. Joseph of Arimathea because he was the man who buried the body of the crucified Christ
4. Assemblies of God
5. Five. The first five books of the Old Testament
6. Font
7. Mahalia Jackson
8. Sanbedrin
9. Ezekiel
10. Lilies of the Field, Sydney earned an Oscar for his performance.

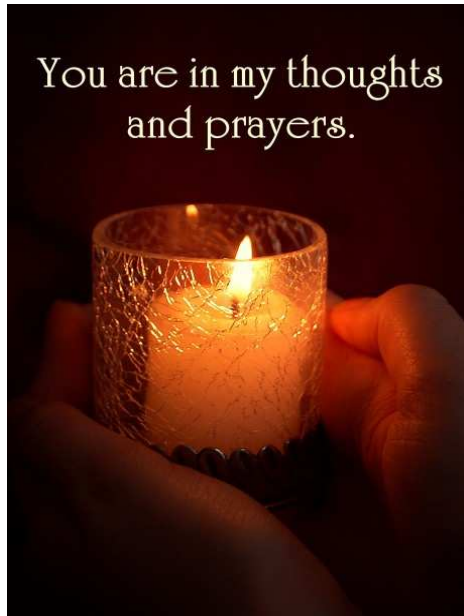
Answers:

Prayers for Our Friends and Family

Our Military

J.W. Anthuis, Steve Beck
Anthony Coughenour
Brandon Fisk, Rich Graham
Penny Griswald, Michael Hart
Rhonda Johnson, Randall Ralls,
Danny Scott, John Warner
Daniel Wiseman

If you would like to add a serviceman or woman to this list please let the church office know by email or give us a call.



Our Friends at Home

Alberta Bone
Alma & Harold Corum
Carrel Dutt * No mail please*
Jean Hart
Alpha Higdon
Stella Ireland
Pat Lowe
Ruth Johnson
Ray Money
Jim Young

Radical Hospitality

Lydia,
Thank you and your church for your radical and loving hospitality. Our workshop was very successful due in part to your open hearts in welcoming us into your church. Also you need to know the gentleman that cleans your church was very helpful and concern that we know that the bathrooms floors were wet and asked us to be careful when using them. The food was deli-

icious and leaving the snacks for our afternoon break was an added touch of love which was much appreciated. There are good and godly things happening at your church. God bless you and the wonderful people of First Raytown.

Be blessed and be a blessing,
Emonia

"God is present and ready to call ordinary, deficient and scarred persons who appreciate the abundant grace of God into service."

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN in Mission Work

Our UMW group has not been meeting during the summer months, but loyal volunteers like Mary Williamson, Clara Fisher, Arlene Bunce, Sue Jones, and recently, Terresa McKinney, still travel to Spofford Home to help cut Campbell's and Box Tops for Education labels, and help with mailings.

All are members of the Spofford Auxiliary, and Arlene was recently installed as an Executive Officer for 2010. Congratulations, Arlene! All UMW ladies are invited to join us when we resume our meetings on September 26, 2010, immediately after church service. Please bring salads and finger foods.

And, remember:

we are still collecting BEST CHOICE LABELS. Please bring yours to the meeting.

Thank you for your continued support. And, remember your Prayer Partner!!!
Sue Jones

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF RAYTOWN

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816-356-2027
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Web: www.raytownfirstchurch.org

September

BIRTHDAYS

- 3- Abigail Davila
- 3- Clara Fisher
- 5- Maebelle Clay
- 5- Sue Jones
- 10- Virginia Warner
- 11- Nancy Propst
- 16- Jim Young
- 18- Scott Kiddle
- 21- Carrel Dutt
- 22- John Warner
- 24- Donna Coughenour



Are you up to
the birthday
challenge?

Month in Review

August 1		
	56	Attendance
	\$4454.74	Deposits
August 8		
	49	Attendance
	\$3999.25	Deposits
August 15		
	58	Attendance
	\$983.93	Deposits
August 22		
	48	Attendance
	\$564.65	Deposits