

The Messenger

MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 10, 2006

VOLUME X

Choices



Steve Harbaugh
Minister of Adult Education

When I was little, my sister and I were allowed to share one bottle of soft drink each day. We could choose what flavor of soft drink we would have, and then during the day, we would share that bottle. We could decide which choices we would make. In some ways, the season of Lent is also about choices.

Lent today is the 40-day devotional preparation we observe leading up to Easter. Right? Yes, it is! Some of us punctuate our devotional preparation by giving up something like chocolate or desserts for Lent. However, in the early church, Lent was a period of preparation for being baptized and joining the church. It was a time of choice – a time when people chose to confess Christ as Savior and chose to become a part of the body of Christ, the Church.

So where did this bit about giving up something come from? Well, in the early church, Lent was viewed as a time of public penance for any sins a Christian might have committed in the previous year. As a part of this time of penance, Christians were supposed to deny themselves something that was important to them as a visible sign of their repentance for sin. Each individual could choose what he or she would give up during Lent.

It was all about choice from the beginning, this time of Lent. So what will we choose this Lenten season? We could follow tradition and deny ourselves something we enjoy to emphasize our devotion to Christ. My mother would suggest each year that my sister and I give up the daily bottle of soft drink for Lent. I can't remember us ever choosing that option! Or we could choose to add something to our devotional life for Lent. We could choose to tithe for these forty days. We could participate in a short term class or join a Sunday School class for Lent. We could volunteer to serve some time each week to programs such as Centenary Cares, Room At the Inn, or any other of the many ways MUMC reaches out to those in need.

Whatever you choose, let it bring you closer to Christ and fill your soul with love this Lenten season.

Grace and Peace,

Steve

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MESSAGE FROM CARL

Dear Friends,

Why is Saint Paul important and why study in his footsteps? This is a good question for the study group, for my renewal leave, and for Christians in general.

Simply put, Paul is one of the five primary interpreters of the meaning of the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The other four are the writers of the gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. From these five, we learn virtually all we know about Jesus. We see him through their eyes, and our understanding of him is through them. This alone makes Paul important.

Further, Paul's understanding of Jesus and Christianity has been at least as influential as that of the four gospel writers. For Protestant Christians especially, Paul is the primary teacher about what it means to have faith in Christ. It was Paul who wrote those key words, "You are saved by grace effective by faith." This is the core of Protestant Christianity. To know Paul is to know the meaning and significance of the Christ event.

It helps to understand any person by getting acquainted with the places and settings of their life. I would know you better if I were acquainted with the places you grew up, where you worked, and the kind of life you live. We travel in the footsteps of Paul to seek glimpses of the world in which Paul lived. We learn something of the challenges and travels that shaped his life. We seek to know something of the people and cultures that formed the setting of his famous letters.

So, a group of us will walk in Paul's footsteps by visiting Philippi, Thessalonika, Athens, Corinth, and Ephesus. Each person should come back with a fuller understanding of this man who so shaped our faith. I will continue the study of Paul's life and time in Greece and Italy during my renewal leave. I will be a better preacher/teacher of the New Testament because of this study. I hope to also be a better follower of Jesus Christ.

I hope to see you in worship this week.

Grace and Peace,



Carl L. Schenck
Senior Pastor



Upcoming New Member Classes

April New Member Classes

Sunday, April 2

Lunch and orientation at 11:45 a.m.

Join Sunday, April 30

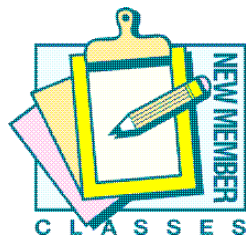
May New Member Classes

Sunday, May 7

Lunch and orientation at 11:45 a.m.

Join Sunday, May 21

Reservations required. For more information or to make reservations, contact Betsy Vicente, Coordinator of New Member and Volunteer Ministries, **636-200-4720** or e-mail: betsy.vicente@manchesterumc.org



February New Members

Welcome to the November New Members who join us in prayer, service and fellowship at Manchester United Methodist Church.



Doug Broyles

Genelle Gutmann, Austin

David L'Hommedieu, MacKenzie and Courtney

Deanna Majeski, Megan and Mark

Tracey and Kelli McMillin, Neeve and Connor

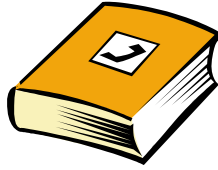
Don and Shirley Dintleman Mees

Greg and Tracey Snyder, Tess

Dwain and Charlotte Sparks, Nicole and Kristen

John and Kristen Taylor, Benjamin

The 2006 Church Directory has Arrived!



The wait is over! If you had your picture taken for the new Church Directory, you may pick up your complimentary copy of the new pictorial directory in **Fellowship Hall**. We will be distributing books **every Sunday in March from 8:30 - 11:45 a.m.**

Not Pictured in the New Directory? Then we have a book for you! Anyone not pictured in the new directory will be given a copy of the **new MUMC Buzzbook**. These books have the same information featured in the directory with the exception of family pictures. **The new MUMC Buzzbook can be picked up in the same location and time as the directory.**

Young Adult Adventure

For MUMC Members in their 20's and 30's

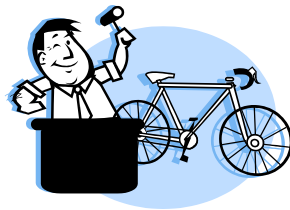


**Saturday, March 25
8:45 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Bowling at Brunswick Lakeside Lanes in Valley Park**

Advance sign up is needed so we know how many lanes to reserve. **Please email sharon.peebles@manchesterumc.org by March 22 to sign up, or if you have questions.**

Youth Auction 2006 and Scholarship Details

**Friday, April 28, 6 p.m.
Marriott West**



Auction proceeds benefit youth mission and choir trips, Extreme VBS, van maintenance and youth room updates. Outreach to other youth in our community and in Mozambique provides them with summer camp experiences and sports equipment. The auction has allowed us to offer one deserving senior a \$2,000 scholarship for outstanding service and leadership.

Donations are easy; volunteering is too—just call Kathy Walker, 636-519-8681.

Reservations are a cinch – just call Judi Shepard, 636-458-0087.

The youth scholarship itself is awarded on the basis of participation and leadership in youth activities. **The scholarship deadline is April 9.** Scholarship applications can be obtained at the welcome desk outside the youth room or by speaking with MUMC's youth directors.

Vacation Bible School Registration Coming Soon



Hey Parents—It's that time of year when Summer Programs start arriving in the mail! Please mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School. Children will become Treasure Seekers and find God in lots of known and unknown places. **Registration will be on Sundays, April 23 and April 30** for children who will be 4 by July 22, 2006 through those in the 5th grade.

Daytime dates will be July 24-28.

Evening dates will be July 23-27.

Something Exciting Is Coming This Summer



Sunday School will have a different feel this summer with "PowerXpress." This is a new rotation model of teaching in which children will experience the same story for six weeks at different stations. Each week, the story will be encountered in different ways: games, music, art, cookery, science, or drama/story. There will be two, six-week units.

We understand that this is all new and different, so the Children's Education department will be hosting an informational session to help you understand how it works. Please plan to attend if you are interested in being a shepherd, station leader, or if you are just curious. **THIS IS NOT A TRAINING!** It will be held on **Sunday, March 12 at 11:45 in room 106.** Please consider volunteering for this exciting opportunity. You'll be glad you did! For more info, contact Kay at 636-200-4724 or kay.stiles@manchesterumc.org

Youth Worker Training at CORE

Get the training you need to be the youth workers your students need. Youth workers –here's a training you won't want to miss. This year at the CORE, you will:

Learn how to interact with students in meaningful ways.

Receive essential training from youth ministry veterans.

Grow in your understanding of teenagers.

Focus your ministry for greater impact.

Gain skills that will help you excel at leading small groups and other activities in your youth ministry.

Find hundreds of resources to give you ideas.

Training is April 1 from 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. To find out more check out www.youthspecialties.com and click the "events" tab. **To sign up contact Nancy Cooper (636-200-4719) or email nancy.cooper@manchesterumc.org**

60 + Sharing Christ and Fellowship

Corned Beef Dinner

Tuesday, March 21 in Fellowship Hall
at 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$6.50 per person--**Due by March 18** with your reservation. Check payable to MUMC. Send to:

Ken Guier
6 Helmsdale Ct.,
Ballwin, MO 63011
636-394-1895

We'll also play Bingo after dinner. Please make plans to join us in fellowship and bring a friend. Just be sure to make your reservations.



Coffee With Metro Ministry

Metro Ministry Teams invite you to an informational coffee. Mark your calendar now to join us on **Sunday, March 12 from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet the new Metro Homeless Center and Family Services Director, learn more about our ministry teams and to learn of new and exciting ways to serve in the coming months.



If you have any questions, call Amy Buehler at 636-386-1545.

A Year Round Fundraiser for MUMC!

'Shop without dropping' at your favorite stores. Online shopping mall pays up to 35% commission back to MUMC, and you get great deals too! Share the website with friends, family, businesses. Go to www.bign.com/manchesterumc and click on 'Big N Marketplace.' There are many participating outlets, including: Best Buy, Dell, Office Depot, Old Navy, Sports Authority, Target, and many more. Questions? Call Lorraine Hackman at 636-256-8049.

Fundraising Request Forms for 2006



One of the responsibilities of the Finance Ministry Team is to approve all fundraising events sponsored by Manchester United Methodist Church or its Ministries.

At its January meeting, the Finance Team approved 30 annual fundraising events for 2006 that are consistent with the mission of our church, and that raise funds for non-profit church-related activities.

The team must also insure that new fundraising events do not unduly compete with existing events. Therefore, as a reminder to Ministry Leaders and Church Staff, all new fundraising events must be approved in advance by the Finance Ministry Team.

This requires that a Fundraising Request Form be completed and returned to Kimberly Smith, Finance Director, who will present the request to the team for approval at its next meeting.

The Finance Ministry Team meets on the third Sunday of each month, so forms should be sent to Kimberly prior to that date for timely approval. If you have any questions or concerns about this process please feel free to **contact Kimberly Smith kimberly.smith@manchesterumc.org or Sam Buttram, Finance Chair samuel.t.buttram@monsanto.com**

MUMC's Fundraising Policy

1. The Finance Ministry team must approve all fundraising events.
2. The fundraising event must be consistent with the mission of the United Methodist church.
3. All money raised will be used for church related activities. For-profit fundraising or sales is not allowed.
4. A fundraising event should not unduly compete with an existing fundraising event. Events of like kind or similar to existing events, will not be considered by the Finance Ministry team prior to a meeting between the new event leadership, the existing event leadership, and a representative of the Finance ministry team. This meeting should result in a consensus agreement on the fundraising event request.
5. If a ministry team discontinues a previously established fundraising event, others may then implement that particular type of event upon approval by the Finance Ministry team.

Upcoming Singles Events

March 13—7:15 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Buffet
Bring a green or Irish dish or pay \$5.

March 20—7:15 p.m.

"Activity Night" featuring volleyball, board games, small group discussions. \$2 for members; \$3 non-members



For additional information and updates, visit www.westcountysingles.com

Your Lay Leader Letter

By Stephanie Hibray

In the February 24th issue of *The Messenger*, we defined the primary responsibilities of the following six ministry teams: Board of Trustees, Committee on Lay Leadership, Finance Committee, Leadership Resource Cluster, Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and Vision Council. Chuck Healy, Associate Lay Leader, and I represent the congregation in these ministries and we will use this column to report items of interest to you.

The following information concerning the Community Christian Life Center (CCLC), is taken from the January 29, 2006 Vision Council Meeting:

Christian Community Life Center

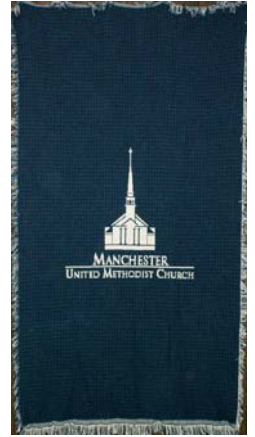
Larry Fairchild reported that in order to obtain a three-acre site, the CCLC committee has been working with the state to swap state-owned property with other MUMC-owned property at 232 Creve Coeur Ave. A bill passed the house last year and was signed by the governor in January. The property trade will take place and MUMC will build a new, specially-designed home for the state.

In addition, the committee is also working on space planning for the center. They envision three levels with one below ground. They have sought out and received much input and are exploring the possibility of grants. In the future they will be putting together a business plan for the center.

Finally, the committee is working toward another Church Conference in order to seek permission to move forward with these plans; it will be scheduled in September or October. The conference would be followed by preparation of plans and obtaining bids by year end. The committee is considering conducting focus groups in open forums, such as M&Ms dinner, in preparation for the Church Conference.

MUMC Blankets Still Available!

Methodist Men's Blankets with MUMC Logo are available for \$45 each. These blankets (throws) are 67" x 48" and can be purchased through the church office, or at the Wednesday morning UMM Lenten Breakfasts. To date, over 38 of these blankets have been purchased by congregation members, and donated to organizations which include Metro Ministry, Kingdom House, The Salvation Army, and Centenary United Methodist Church.



Blanket donations can be made to the organization of your choice, including the Festival of Sharing, which our youth participate in each year. Blanket donations can be made by designating UMM BLANKETS on an offering envelope, or by ordering with cash or check at the church office.

If you have any questions concerning a blanket donation, please **contact Jerry Fritz at 314-503-7034**. Thanks to everyone for your continued support of Manchester's United Methodist Men's Group and their fund raising activity!

Alanon Meetings at MUMC

MUMC holds Alanon meetings every **Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. in room 219**. Alanon is a support group for friends and family members of alcoholics. Your anonymity will always be protected. Come and join us!



Senior High Confirmation Celebration

Please join us in worship on **Sunday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m.** as the Senior High youth who have completed Senior High Confirmation stand and reaffirm their vows. This has been a time of discovery in their lives, and these youth are taking on a new level of commitment to their faith and their church. Please support them with your prayers and your presence.

MUMC re-habbed bikes help change neighborhood's culture

by Ed Heins

What started five years ago as an effort to refurbish a few used bikes for city kids has evolved into a full-scale, growing MUMC ministry, and is improving the neighborhood around Kingdom House in south St. Louis City.

Lisa Tomlin, youth program director at Kingdom House, came to MUMC last month to thank the church for its total contribution of 925 reconditioned bikes for Kingdom House families. She also reported the bikes have done much more than just help kids.

She said "there has been a renewed sense of togetherness" among the families served by her agency. She said part of that change has come since Kingdom House began giving bicycles to parents as well as kids, "especially families with small kids."

Now, she said she sees whole families taking bike rides in the neighborhood. Also the adults "who don't have the luxury of a car" gain increased mobility in getting to work and doing needed shopping outside the neighborhood.

She attributes the availability of bikes to increased communication between neighborhood kids. "Children who wouldn't have communicated before now can be seen riding together," Ms. Tomlin said.

She credits the bicycles with helping to cut down neighborhood vandalism. "Before, children who got in trouble blamed it on having nothing to do. The bikes have decreased that vandalism behavior," she said.

She said the bikes also have strengthened the program at Kingdom House. "We now teach a 'Safe Biking' class in our summer program and have a kids' bicycle club," she added.

The biking club brought a closer, positive interaction between neighborhood children with the police. Police officers volunteer time to serve as chaperones while the bike club kids are on longer rides to other parts of the metro area.

The most recent shipment of 63 bikes to Kingdom House included the 1,000th bike reconditioned under the MUMC Bike Re-Hab Ministry since it started in 2000.

The latest Kingdom House shipment was prepared at a repair workday on January 28. Almost 100 people gathered at the church to do the re-habbing. Jim Vail, the head of the re-hab ministry, said that was the largest number of volunteers at a single workday.

He said the total number of reconditioned bikes as of Feb. 1 was 1,077.

Another quarterly workday is scheduled at MUMC on April 22. If you'd like to participate, you can contact Jim Vail at **(636) 207-1281**.

Jim said the bike re-hab ministry continues to accept donations of used bikes. "We take them in any condition, but I'll admit that we like it if they are 'wipedowns' or 'OBs.'" (He described a "wipedown" as a bike that just needs a washing and doesn't require extensive body repair or repainting. An "OB" is one that "looks like it just came out of a box.")

Vail said the MUMC ministry obtains spare parts "at a deep discount" from West County Cycles in Ellisville. Each kid who gets a bike also gets a bicycle helmet. Those helmets come, again at a discount, from Children's Hospital.

Ms. Tomlin said another big change in bike usage has come in the area of safety. "Now, kids ask for and wear their helmets. At first, I'd see them using the helmets as a substitute for a football," she said.

March 11 and 12

Psalm 22:23-31
 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Romans 4:13-25
 Mark 8:31-38

Saturday, 5 p.m.
 Rev. Debby Peebles (chapel)

Sunday 8, 9 and 10:30 a.m.
 Rev. Carl Schenck (sanctuary)

Contemporary Service
 Sunday, 9 a.m.
 Rev. Erik Corley (fellowship hall)

March 18 and 19

Psalm 19
 Exodus 20:1-17
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 2:13-22

Saturday, 5 p.m.
 Rev. Debby Peebles (chapel)

Sunday 8, 9 and 10:30 a.m.
 Rev. Carl Schenck (sanctuary)

Contemporary Service
 Sunday, 9 a.m.
 Rev. Erik Corley (fellowship hall)

March 25 and 26

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Numbers 21:4-9
 Ephesians 2:1-10
 John 3:14-21

Saturday, 5 p.m.
 Rev. Steve Harbaugh (chapel)

Sunday, 8 and 10:30 a.m.
 Rev. Carl Schenck (sanctuary)

Sunday, 9 a.m.
 To be determined

Contemporary Service
 Sunday, 9 a.m.
 Rev. Carl Schenck (fellowship hall)

We extend our Christian sympathy to:

Tom and Janet Rissmann, on the passing of Tom's mother, Joan Rissmann on February 14.

Bill and Theresa Hildebrandt, on the passing of Bill's father, William H. Hildebrandt on February 19.

June and Larry Van Klavern, on the passing of June's father, Ernest Fink, on February 21.

We celebrate these new arrivals:

Melinda and Eric Brault, on the birth of a son, Alexander Lloyd, born on February 21. Proud grandparents are **Hap and Peggy Zimmerman**.

Katie and Jeff Schwab, on the birth of a daughter, Ansley Grace, on February 20. Proud aunt and uncle are **Russ and Beth Cottle**.

Stephen and Michele Lashly, on the birth of a daughter, Natalie Ann, on February 20. Proud grandparents are **Mark and Susie Lashly**.

MUMC Members are in bold.

Chapel Prayer Ministry meets each Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. Request prayer support by filling out a Prayer Card in the church pew or by e-mailing prayer.requests@manchestrumc.org.



Manchester United Methodist Church
129 Woods Mill Road
Manchester, MO 63011-4339
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DATED MATERIAL

Meal-A-Month March Menu

Beef Ravioli
Corn
Boxed Cookie Mix
Fruit Cocktail
Kleenex

Especially Needed:

Deodorant
Toothpaste

The Messenger

Staff:

- Dr. Carl L. Schenck, *Senior Pastor*
- Rev. Debby Peebles, *Associate Pastor*
- Rev. Erik Corley, *Associate Pastor*
- Rev. Steve Harbaugh, *Minister of Adult Education*
- Dr. John Ward, *Pastor Emeritus (Retired)*
- Sherry Boland, *Handbell Program Director*
- Lori Borger, *Children's/Contemporary Choirs and Drama*
- Nancy Cooper, *Youth Director*
- Ted Cronbaugh, *Organist, Music Associate*
- Phil Estes, *Business Administrator*
- John Guiney, *Youth Director*
- Kevin McBeth, *Director of Music Ministries*
- Kimberly Smith, *Finance Director*
- Kay Stiles, *Children's Christian Education Director*
- Susan Vasquez, *Children's Christian Education Director*
- Betsy Vicente, *New Member and Volunteer Coordinator*



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- Articles submitted by 9 a.m. on the 3rd Friday will be published the 2nd week of the following month.
- The next submission deadline - March 17, 2006 for publication April 14, 2006

Please send articles, photos and suggestions to MUMC, in care of
The Messenger or burt.bollinger@manchesterumc.org.