



The Messenger

MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 22, 2006

VOLUME X



Random Acts of Christmas

We expect an exciting Christmas at the Corley house this year. Patrick is 16 months old and says, "Ho ho ho" every time he sees Santa Claus. Emily is six and is thrilled by the season. They both love the stories about the Baby Jesus and are excited about mangers and shepherds and wise men and donkeys.

For the majority of the people in our community, however, faith plays little, if any, role in the Christmas season. Though many find joy in family and presents, others see the season as just another excuse for harried buying and selling. The season can exacerbate depression, stress, grief and a host of less pleasant emotions. More than anything, people in those situations need to know someone cares.

You can give a Christmas gift this season. You can share God's love with others. Simply engage in acts of kindness. Shovel a neighbor's walk. Clean a stranger's windshield. Give an unsuspecting coworker a simple gift. If anyone asks why, say "I'm doing this to let you know that God loves you."

Christmas is about God coming into our world as a human being. We can make Christmas real for others by sharing His love with them.

Erik

Best wishes from your Church Staff
this holiday season!

The church office will be closed on **Monday, December 25** and **Monday, January 1**.

Christmas Eve Service Schedule

Time and Service	Music Provided by...
9 a.m. Traditional*	Chancel Choir
9 a.m. Contemporary*	Joyful Noise
10:30 a.m. Family Service*	SonShine Singers, Carol Choir, Music Makers, Preschool Choir and Puppets
3 p.m. Communion*	Good News Quartet
5 p.m. Contemporary*	One Voice
7 p.m. Traditional*	Coventry Choir
9 p.m. Traditional	Chancel Choir and Vesper Bell Choir
11 p.m. Traditional	Youth Choirs, Alumni, and Joyful Noise

An asterisk (*) denotes child care will be available for children 2 and under.
Note: No children or youth Sunday School at 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Communion will be offered in the chapel following the 5, 7, and 9 p.m. services.



Erik Corley
Associate Pastor

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Read Carl's blog on the web:
www.faithandempire.com

Pastor Erik has one, too!
www.pastorerik.com

MESSAGE FROM CARL

Dear Friends,

We do not celebrate Christmas to stimulate the economy nor to party away the winter blues. We celebrate Christmas because we believe the most momentous event of human history was God's choice to be born among us as a baby.

Our mighty God chose not to deal with humanity out of power, but out of weakness and vulnerability. God chose to connect with us by sharing our human flesh, experiencing our human joys and sorrows, and by dying our human death. This choice of God is what we celebrate.

On a long Christmas Eve we will celebrate God's choice with seven opportunities to worship and praise God for this supreme act of self sacrifice and humility. We will remind ourselves of the kind of God we worship. We will experience the joy of God with us in Jesus Christ.

This choice of God is what we celebrate.

I hope you will be a part of this celebration and that you will seek out others who may not know God in this way. Invite those persons to worship with you on Christmas Eve. Do them the great favor of sharing your faith in God's love and presence.

To each of you, I extend my prayers for a blessed, safe, and faith renewing Christmas.

Grace and Peace,



Carl L. Schenck
Senior Pastor



Our Financial Commitment to Christ

Phil Estes, Business Administrator

Operating Commitments through November 30, 2006

Commitments Received	\$2,366,578
Expense	\$2,373,636
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$7,058)

Building Fund Commitments through November 30, 2006

Current Commitment Total	\$373,291
Total Collected	\$365,234
Remaining Balance	\$8,057

MUMC has collected 97.84 percent of the total 2006 Building Fund Commitment.

Attendance

Average weekly worship attendance through November was 1400, a 4.92 percent decrease over the same period in 2005.



**God is Good, God is Great -
The Original Power of One**

By Phil Estes,
Business Administrator



Follow and Lead

As disciples of Christ we are called to be good and faithful servants. We strive to follow His faithful example. Not only are we invited to follow Christ, but once claiming our place in the Kingdom, we are also challenged to lead others to a fulfilling life in Christ.

Great Results/Generous Stewardship

Simply put, Great results for Christ are fueled by Generous Stewardship. Through your sacrificial giving, our neighbors can find Christ in the joyful Word gifted to us by our Father in heaven ... the kind of joy one can only express after having been terribly lost. Like a wandering child in a department store lifted up in a warm embrace, we exuberantly celebrate being found. We celebrate the one who called our name and carried us home.

For 3500 of you, Manchester UMC became just such a home. We gather here, then go out to share the Good News and to invite others to join us in a safe place for worship, learning, and equipping all followers to lead even more seekers home to Christ.

Leading others to Christ requires financial and human resources that are not unlike those used in our everyday business lives. Like a business, the church needs quality facilities, tools and equipment for worship and ministry programming implementation. Think of what your family and business requires to succeed. The church has the same needs in order to reach the full potential of Christ's mission on Earth.

Thanks be to God ... Our 2007 Stewardship Results*

So far, **696** households have responded for a total committed gift of \$1,714,184. That's good progress. As a group, these households have increased their gifts over 2006 levels. MUMC will need \$2,291,675 in financial commitments to ensure existing programming will continue. In other words, another **\$577, 491** will close the gap.

The Gap:

In the past, approximately **920** households have made a commitment to support MUMC's important work. Just **227** more commitments will allow MUMC to maintain *current* levels of ministry programming and facility operations. Filling this Gap will ensure a good program in 2007.

Good to Great

Creating an opportunity to go from Good to Great will require more the 920 commitments to grow MUMC ministry beyond our base Operating budget.

Please prayerfully consider how you might respond to the Goodness and Greatness of God and His blessings by completing a Renewing Our Commitment form today.

How do I commit?

Simply complete an ROC Commitment form and return it in the offering plate, or drop it by the church office.

Need a form? Go to www.manchesterumc.org, the Welcome Center or call the Church office at **(636) 394-7506**.

***Results as of December 13, 2006.**

Upcoming New Member Classes:



New member classes for 2007 will be held every other month beginning in January.

January's classes will be held on **Wednesdays, January 10, 17, and 24.**

Attendance at all three classes is required.

Each household will receive a complimentary meal ticket for an M&M's dinner, to be used in January or February 2007. Membership vows will be taken as we share Holy Communion in the Historic Chapel on the final session date.

Please make your reservations for the January class by calling Betsy Vicente at **(636) 200-4720** or Leona Dunsmoor at **(636) 200-4746**. You can also email Betsy at betsy.vicente@manchesterumc.org

Join us! It's a great way to begin the New Year!

November New Members

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

Bill and Sarah Crocker

Patrick and Laurie Hopkins, Brett and Eric

Ron and Becky Litherland

MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP

Meals and Ministries— New Classes Forming!

Sign up for these exciting classes to strengthen your relationship with God and enjoy wonderful food and fellowship, too. Classes are held on Wednesday nights.

Five-Week Classes January 10, 17, 24, 31, and February 7

- Understanding Eastern Orthodox Christianity
by Friar Joseph Strzelcki, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
- Self-Defense Through Martial Arts for Physical Fitness and Safety
by Ron Gaddis (New Member!)
- The Alpha USA Course **(through April 4)**
by Revs. Erik Corley and Steve Harbaugh

Three-Week Class January 10, 17, and 24

- Me, a Methodist?
by Betsy Vicente

Dinners begin at 5:15 p.m., and classes are held from 7 to 8 p.m. Call Steve Harbaugh for more information on classes at **(636) 200-4711**.

MUMC Staff Opening: Director of Family, Wellness and Recreation Ministries

Manchester United Methodist Church is currently seeking to fill the full-time position of Director of Family, Wellness and Recreation Ministries. We seek a person with relevant experience in supporting family-oriented programming (i.e. marriage retreats, parenting classes, etc.); or, providing staff leadership of programs promoting physical and emotional health (i.e. wellness fairs, health screenings, blood drives, etc.); or, recreational activities for children, youth and adults. Candidates should possess strong communication skills and a commitment to enhancing personal and family spiritual, mental and physical health in a Christian environment for all ages. A four-year college degree is required.

Interested in applying? Know someone who fits this description? For more information or to submit a resume, please contact:

Joy Brother
joy@charlesluntz.com
Executive Vice President
Charles Luntz & Associates, Inc.
Retained Executive Search
636-273-9649-FAX

Collection Connection Saves Trees!

MUMC has been very successful with special donation requests. Thank you! As a result, our Sunday bulletin is bursting with long lists. We can free up space and save a few trees by placing the detailed lists for pick up at the **Collection Connection**.

Here's how to communicate Donation Needs and lighten the Sunday Bulletin paper load:

- If cash donations will also be accepted, make sure the fundraiser is approved by the Finance Ministry Team.
- Submit an announcement (75 words or less) to Eedy Gustafson for the bulletin and/or The Messenger.
eedy.gustafson@manchesterumc.org or
(636) 200-4702.
- Submit the detailed list of items needed to Eedy Gustafson as well.
- Your detailed list will be placed in the **Collection Connection** information wall-rack (30-day limit please).

Thank you for your help as we work together in community outreach.

FYI

Collection Connection Lists currently available :

- Centenary Cares
- Epworth Children's Home
- Kingdom House
- Lydia's House
- Meal-A-Month
- Metro Homeless Center & Family Services
- UMW Troop Donations

A Message to (Last Minute) Holiday Shoppers

Enjoy shopping this year! Save time and gas while shopping online at your favorite stores. For added value you'll find an abundance of holiday specials, no-shipping-cost offers, tax-free stores, gift cards, and access to each store's full stock. An average of 10% of your purchase is donated back to MUMC. Just go to www.bign.com/manchesterumc and click on the 'Big N Marketplace' for access to 90+ major retailers. For questions call Lorraine Hackman at **(636) 256-8049** or use the 'Help' button.

As always, gift cards to Dierbergs, Schnucks and Shop 'n Save can be purchased on Sunday mornings in one of the Narthex areas OR during the week in the church office. MUMC receives five percent of the face value of each card.

Your stewardship is appreciated!

www.bign.com/manchesterumc

Room at the Inn

A very big "thank you" is in order for Barbara Brown for her eight years of service to this very special ministry at MUMC. Thank you, Barb!

Thanks are also extended to the volunteers who have signed up to serve in 2007 in different capacities. This program could not exist without your willing hearts and hands.

Show Our Troops We Care

Help support our wonderful troops with a Valentine's Day gift care package. The United Methodist Women will meet in Fellowship Hall after services **Sunday, January 14** to fill our boxes with the items listed below. This list is also available at the Collection Connection. Please, no liquids or tubes.



YAA's Topical Studies on Sunday Mornings
10:30 a.m.
Room 310

Join us as we learn about *24 Hours, A Day in the Life of Jesus*. Learn about living a life that Jesus wants us to live, which is something that Christians are constantly striving for. The curriculum is comprised of video clips and discussion.

Women's Retreat - "Making Room for God"

Please join us for our next Women's Retreat to be held **Saturday and Sunday, February 3 and 4** at the Pallottine Renewal Center in Florissant, Missouri. "Making Room for God," led by Sandra M. Bellon and Rev. Debby Peebles, will begin with check-in on Saturday at 9 a.m. and continue through Sunday at 1 p.m. Cost includes four meals, overnight accommodations, and materials - \$105 early bird registration through **January 7** and then \$115 for registration through **January 26**. Transportation from the church parking lot to the retreat site will be available. Brochure information is available on the website and at the Welcome Center. If you are interested in a gift certificate or have any questions, please contact Peggy Andereck at **(636) 227-4665** or Margaret Mahan at **(636) 825-9856**.

Items delivered before **January 14** should be placed in the containers at the Collection Connection near the office labeled "UMW."

Join us as we tape and label boxes for shipment in time for Valentine's Day.

Questions? Please call Betty Moore, **(636) 227-6700** or Cheryl Templeton, **(636) 405-1204**.

Items Most Requested for Donation

- socks, heat pads for shoes and gloves
- x-large mechanic work gloves
- AAA and AA batteries
- baby wipes
- Bibles
- used DVDs
- old computer games
- decks of cards, word puzzles
- disposable cameras, phone cards
- sports and motorcycle magazines, Readers Digest
- board games
- tan or brown shirts
- beef jerky
- small cans of snacks, individually wrapped hard candy
- notebooks, pens, and pencils
- talc or baby powder, lip balm
- small size tooth brushes
- bar soap
- cough drops
- over-the-counter allergy pills

Mother's Death Prompts Sherry Duffey to Disciple Bible Study



by Ed Heins

MUMC member Sherry Duffey said the death of her mother was the trigger to her beginning a more thorough study of her religious beliefs through the Disciple Bible Study (DBS) series.

Sherry said, "My mother was very serious about her religion. When I had a religious question, she always was there with an answer. But, when she died, I realized I couldn't fall back on her to explain the Bible."

"I said to myself, 'You can't leave this Earth without knowing more about the Bible,'" she said.

Sherry said her mother died in 1995 and the following year she enrolled in Disciple Bible Study I at MUMC. That started six consecutive years of Bible study, including all four DBS series together with the Christian Believer and Jesus and the Gospels series.

"You can't leave this Earth without knowing more about the Bible."

-Sherry Duffey

After teaching Sunday School kids for several years, Sherry signed on to teach Disciple I with Pastor Debby Peebles, beginning last September. The two share the leadership roles for the Wednesday morning classes.

"We split the lesson periods. I teach half and Debby takes the other half," Sherry said. However, when other duties call Pastor Debby away, Sherry leads the whole 9:15-11:45 a.m. class period.

She said the Disciple I class sessions provide a good way for members to learn more about their religious faith. "The weekly classes keep us on track and keep our motivation when studying the Bible," she said.

For her part, Sherry said she regularly does additional research about the subjects covered in the weekly lesson plans. She said it is important for a teacher to "add an extra dimension" to the lessons to keep the class members interest level up.

"Before I began teaching, I went to Cokesbury and bought some additional books that went beyond the scope of the prepared lesson plans. If you don't add something extra, you can lose your audience," she added.

She said she learned that lesson while teaching various Sunday School classes for kids.

"The children always liked my Bible stories because I always added something additional," she said.

Sherry said her preparation for the DBS teaching assignment also helped her to learn more about the Bible than she had picked up when first taking the classes as a student.

Sherry said she gained more insights from the material the second time around. "Teaching the material talks to me in a whole different way. And I'm now at a different stage of my life from when I studied the material the first time," she said.

She admitted to some trepidation before she started teaching her first DBS lesson in the fall. But, she said she got some encouragement recently from an adult in her class.

"She told me, 'If you'll teach Disciple II, I'll take it,'" Sherry said.

Sherry described the Disciple I curriculum as an "overall picture of the whole Bible." She said, "We describe it as looking at the leaves on all of the trees; we're not picking the individual berries on a tree."

A closer look at the specifics of the Bible come in Disciple II, III, and IV and the other two class series, she said.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Disciple Bible Study series can call the church office, **(636) 394-7506**.

**manchester
united
methodist**

music

**Joy of Music
Concert Series
Presents**

**Swingin'
the Night Away**



**Sunday, February 18
7:30 p.m.**

Tickets on sale in January.

In this annual fund-raising concert, the Chancel Choir presents an evening of the best in swing and big band music, made famous by Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, and many others! For ticket information, please call **(636) 200-4728**.

December 23 and 24

Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:47-55
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-45

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

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-20

See front page for a full listing of Christmas Eve worship services.

December 30 and 31

Epiphany of the Lord
 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 Psalm 148
 Colossians 3:12-17
 Luke 2:41-52

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

Sunday, 8, 9 and 10:30 a.m.
 Rev. Debby Peebles (Sanctuary)

Sunday, 9 a.m. Contemporary
 Rev. Erik Corley (Fellowship Hall)

January 6 and 7

Isaiah 43:1-7
 Psalm 29
 Acts 8:14-17
 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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

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

Sunday, 9 a.m. Contemporary
 Rev. Erik Corley (Fellowship Hall)

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 emailing prayer.requests@manchesterumc.org.

We extend our Christian sympathy to:

Karen (Jack) Scott on the passing of her brother, Michael Rogers, on November 23. Uncle of Ethan and Emma.

Carey (Steve) Paquette on the passing of her father, Douglas Howard, on December 7. Grandchildren are **Mireille, Taylor, Doug** and **Stevie Paquette**.

Dan (Nancy) Pace on the passing of his mother, Dolores Pace, on December 8. Grandchildren are Matthew and Christopher Pace.

John (Tessie) Zeloski on the passing of his father, Frank Zeloski, on December 10. Grandchildren are Grace and Tanner Zeloski.

(MUMC members are in bold.)

Do You Want to Live Healthy?

Did you know that MUMC offers a Healthy Living and Weight Management Ministry? A new session will be beginning in January 2007.

We are offering a total-wellness program that can help you achieve your goals of physical, emotional AND spiritual health. Program includes a weight management component that is both personal and Bible-based. Our group will use the First Place program, a Christ-centered healthy living and weight control program. First Place combines Bible study and Scripture reading with a sensible eating plan to help participants focus on giving Christ "first place" in every area of their lives.

Groups will meet weekly for 13 weeks starting in January 2007. Each weekly meeting will include instruction, encouragement and support to help you achieve your healthy living goals. There will be both evening and daytime sessions available, with child-care possible during meeting times. For more information please call Beth Dorrance at **(636) 675-5001** or pick up a brochure off the rack across from the Collection Connection.

Informational orientations will on:

- **Sunday, January 21** from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 221
- **Monday, January 22** from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in room 141
- **Wednesday, January 24** from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in room 129

Attend any one of the meetings to get all of the information.



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

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DATED MATERIAL

**Meal-A-Month
December Menu**

- Canned Ham
- Boxed AuGratin Potatoes
- Boxed Jello
- Fruit Cocktail

Optional
Shampoo



the messenger

Staff:

- Rev. Carl 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*
- Linda Clark, *Circle of Friends Preschool Director*
- 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*
- Susan Vasquez, *Children's Christian Education Director*
- Betsy Vicente, *New Member and Volunteer Coordinator*

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www.manchesterumc.org

The Messenger is published and distributed twice a month.

Publication schedule:

- Articles submitted by 9 a.m. on the 1st Friday will be published the 4th week of the same month.
- Articles submitted by 9 a.m. on the 3rd Friday will be published the 2nd week of the following month.
- The next submission deadline - January 5 for publication
January 26, 2007

Please send articles, photos and suggestions to MUMC, in care of **The Messenger** or email bryan.lester@manchesterumc.org.

Staff email addresses are in the following format:
firstname.lastname@manchesterumc.org