

The Messenger

MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 8, 2006

VOLUME X

Ready or Not!



Kevin McBeth
Director of Music Ministries

Every year, I approach this season with the same amount of surprise and wonder! I usually ask the same question, too. How can it be here again? My friends are quick to remind me that the older you get, the faster time goes by. I think there is some truth to that.

I spend a lot of time getting ready for the holiday season. Not just in my "music" life, but also in my "personal" life. With nine concerts and 15 worship services for me this December, getting musically ready is easy. While that may seem to be a nightmare for some people, I know that in my music-making, I'm helping others to get ready, too! Even in the blur of time, I'm so grateful for this time of year. After 30 years in music ministry, this is my typical pace and I would have it no other way.

In my personal life, it's a little more difficult. Getting my heart ready for the season takes special effort. Preparing to receive Christ at Christmas requires personal attention and reflection. I tend to look for Jesus in all the activity of the season, but he comes each year just like the first time, quietly, in an unexpected place. I forget to look for him in those "surprise" visits from friends; in the playful excitement of children; in those old stories our family retells every year. I get so focused on the trees, that I miss the forest! I get so caught up in getting ready, that I nearly miss the season.

So, whether you're ready for the season, or still making preparations, Christ can still be found, if you know where to look!

Have a blessed, wonderful, busy, full, filled Christmas! Ready or not, here He comes!

Kevin



Christmas Eve Service Schedule

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.

9 a.m.	Traditional*
9 a.m.	Contemporary*
10:30 a.m.	Family Service*
3 p.m.	Communion*
5 p.m.	Contemporary*
7 p.m.	Traditional*
9 p.m.	Traditional
11 p.m.	Traditional

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

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

MESSAGE FROM CARL

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have receded into the rear view mirror, Hanging of the Green will be behind us, and White Gifts Sunday will be just ahead. The customs and treasured moments of the season move by us like a blur and, if we are not careful, we will fail to focus on each one. When we lose our focus, we miss the blessings that each moment carries.

So, I invite you to take a deep breath and, at least while you read this, consider for a moment how God is speaking to you in each tradition. For those who have eyes to see and hearts to experience, each step of this Advent season can illuminate the ever wondrous story of Emmanuel—God with us.



I would also remind you of a couple of practical things that put wheels under the spiritual blessings we seek to experience this season.

This is the time of year when people are most open to invitations to worship.

First, if you have not returned your Renewing Our Commitment materials, please do so promptly. These are important both to our personal practices of spiritual discipline and to the responsible operation of our church.

Second, I would remind you that this is the time of year when people are most open to responding positively to invitations to worship. I hope you will invite someone to worship with you here at MUMC this holiday season. First time visitors are the future of our church. Your invitations create first time visitors.

I hope to see you in worship this week.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl".

Carl L. Schenck
Senior Pastor

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, 2007** to fill our boxes with the items listed below. This list is also available at the Collection Connection. Please, **no** liquids or tubes.

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

White Gifts Volunteers Needed

Gifts

Help make Christmas special for an Epworth youth. The love you show through your white gift will be felt by a youth in crisis and will in turn help them show love to others.

Drivers/Sorters

We need drivers to deliver the gifts to Webster Hills United Methodist Church and volunteers to unwrap and sort the gifts on White Gifts Sunday on **December 10**. Please use the Sunday bulletin signup if you can help. If you would like to bring Christmas cheer in other ways, please contact Margaret Mahan, Volunteer Coordinator, Epworth Children & Family Services "Where Kids Find Strength," **(636) 918-3330** or mmahan@Epworth.org.

New Members Get Plugged In

By Angela Schaeffer



New MUMC member Holly Butka.

Over the last several weeks, sermon topics have covered the many, many opportunities members have to get involved in service projects at MUMC. We've heard it again and again, "There's something for everybody...and if there's not, then start something new." Holly Butka did just that!

Holly and her family joined Manchester in January 2006 after visiting several times the previous fall. She was looking for a place where they could be involved in ministry and get to know other families. This past October, Holly, her family and eight other families went on the inaugural MUMC Family Camp at Camp Trinity near New Haven, MO.

At her old church, Holly had organized this annual event many times and knew the work that went into it and, more importantly, knew the benefits attendees would get from attending. Holly says, "Family Camp is a way for people to get to know each other under different circumstances. We see each other at church, we greet each other in passing while dropping off or picking up our kids, but we don't always take the time to really get to know someone."

Holly says that Family Camp provides fellowship opportunities greater than you can imagine. "We get to know each other as we hike with our families, catch frogs with our kids, and this year, listen to the World Series on the radio."

Holly looked at the long list of service opportunities and thought MUMC could use one more – Family Camp Coordinator. God has given us all unique talents – is there something else we should add to that list?

Upcoming New Member Classes: Something NEW in 2007!



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!

manchester
united
methodist

music

Bell Choir Concert

**Monday, December 11
7 p.m.**

The Wesley Chimers and the Manchester Bell Choir will host their annual Christmas Party at Gambrell Gardens. The ringing program will be followed by a reception in the dining room with refreshments for all. For more information, contact Sherry Boland, Handbell Program Director, **(636) 200-4733**.

Joy of Music Concert Series Presents:

**Festival of
Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 17
7 p.m.**



Join us for this timeless, traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols. First established in 1918, this service includes traditional carols and anthems featuring the Chancel Choir and Vesper Bell Choir. A handbell pre-service concert will begin at 7 p.m.

MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP

Schedule of Advent Events

Saturday, 12/9	Children's Christmas Festival, 8 a.m. to noon 5 p.m. White Gifts
Sunday, 12/10	White Gifts Sunday, all services
Wednesday, 12/13	UMM Advent Breakfast, 6 a.m.
Sunday, 12/17	Youth Caroling, Fruit Baskets, and Chili Supper, 5 p.m.
Sunday, 12/17	Lessons and Carols concert with Bells, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, 12/20	UMM Advent Breakfast, 6 a.m.
Sunday, 12/24	Christmas Eve service schedule

Pastor Erik Corley will conduct a Sunday sermon series titled "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

The UMM Christmas Tree Lot will be open daily, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Carols and Chili - A Winning Combination!

Manchester youth, don't miss our annual Christmas Caroling and Chili party on **December 17**. Meet in Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m. for a great time. This is an awesome way to get into the Christmas spirit, as well as spread that spirit to those who need it most. We will also be delivering fruit baskets to MUMC members who are homebound. After singing, we'll come back to church for chili.

All are welcome, but you **MUST** have a health form on file. Health forms are available at church, or online at www.manchesterumc.org/youth. See you there!

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
- White Gifts

**Habitat Homebuyer Thanks
Manchester UMC Members!**



This is Chandra on the steps of her new Habitat for Humanity home which Manchester UMC helped sponsor and build. She is inviting you to the dedication of her home on **Saturday, December 16** at 10:30 a.m. The services will be held at Columbia Elementary (on St. Louis Ave and Garrison St). Following the dedication service, there will be a blessing ceremony and refreshments at the house. Come join in the celebration and see not only a new home, but a revitalized neighborhood. For directions or carpooling, contact the Zensers at Zenser@sbcglobal.net or call **(636) 394-4608**.

A Message to 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 **(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 5 percent of the face value of each card.

Your stewardship is appreciated!

www.bign.com/manchesterumc



**P-A-R-T-Why?
'Cuz it's Christmas!**

On **Saturday, December 15** all 20-and-30-somethings should come to the YAA Christmas Party, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Scott and Meghan Morgan's house. Bring a dish to share. Sodas are provided. Later, we're going to Tilles Park to see the lights! Email Sharon for all the details and to RSVP at sharonpeebles@gmail.com.

**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.

The True Holiday Experience

Please consider volunteering at the Kingdom House Christmas Gift Shop this December and experience the real meaning of the season!

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up on **Sunday, December 10** from 1 to 5 p.m., and **Monday, December 11** from 9 to 5 p.m.

Personal shoppers to assist clients are needed Tuesday through Thursday, the **December 12 through 14** from 8:30 a.m. to noon, or 12:30 to 5 p.m.. Also on these dates, for those who can't come during the day, we have a 5 to 7 p.m. shift available to help straighten and re-stock the shop for the next day!

Friday, December 15 is clean and pack up day for anyone who wants to help with that task.

Please call or email Sarah Shipley at **(636) 822-3065** or sarahship@msn.com if you would like to volunteer!

Mother and Daughter Sign On for Second Trip to Nicaragua



Bonnie Lester and her daughter, Carrie, both believe God had a hand in their joining MUMC's first mission trip to Nicaragua. Both already are signed up to make the second trip next spring.

by Ed Heins And the MUMC mission team for the second trip is also much larger.

Bonnie said she's had a feeling since she was young that she should be serving others. She has been a social worker for 27 years, working in hospitals and the home-care field.

But, she said the first Nicaraguan mission trip "made me feel like I was fulfilling God's purpose for me."

Daughter Carrie, who is 19, said her mother asked her about going on the trip.

But, she said, "I didn't have any money and didn't do anything about it." Then, just a week before the MUMC team was to leave, she got a call that a scholarship would fund her place on the mission team.

Carrie said, "So I said I'd go. I felt the scholarship offer was God leading me there."

On the first trip, eight MUMC members went on the week-long trip to help at the El Ayudante orphanage in Leon, Nicaragua.

For the next trip, 20 church members already are signed up. This trip will take them into the Nicaraguan mountains where additional orphanage facilities are being built.

Bonnie and Carrie have been preparing for this second trip. Earlier this year, members of the mission team sold roses for Father's Day as a fund-raiser. Then, in November, they organized a pie sale as another way to raise funds for the trip.

Carrie is working with John Stiller to establish a bi-weekly Nicaragua Prayer Group that will explore the spiritual aspects of mission work. The every-other-Monday evening session is for regular church members as well as mission team members.

Carrie said she also hopes to help plan regular worship times for the team when it gets to Nicaragua. "I'm interested in the spiritual aspects of mission work," she said.

In fact, Carrie said she might build a longer-term service in Nicaragua after college. She is now studying elementary education at Meramec Community College.

"After I finish my education, I'd like to move to Nicaragua and live there for one to five years, working with the orphans," she said. "I enjoy the feeling of love there," she added.

Both Bonnie and Carrie are active in the life of MUMC.

Bonnie teaches 3-year-olds in Sunday School and works in the nursery. She volunteers at Room at the Inn, the church's once a month overnight housing of the homeless.

She also volunteers for Saturday mission work in St. Louis City. At Christmas time, she works in the Kingdom House store, where White Gift offerings go to provide Christmas presents for low-income people.

Carrie is helping with mid-high and high school youth groups at the church. She also works with 6th graders on Wednesdays and with a small group of high school kids on Sunday nights.

One of her recent jobs was to help choreograph the dancing that goes with the Hanging of the Green services.

If you might be interested in joining the prayer sessions, call the church office at **(636) 394-7506** for details.

"[The trip] made me feel like I was fulfilling God's purpose for me."
-Bonnie Lester

December 9 and 10

White Gifts

Malachi 3:1-4
 Luke 1:68-79
 Philippians 1:3-11
 Luke 3:1-6

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)

December 16 and 17

New Members

Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Isaiah 12:2-6
 Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:7-18

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)

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.

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 celebrate these new homes created:

MaryAnn Sumpter and Rodney Whitaker on November 18.

Connie Ash and **Jerry Fritz** on November 25.

We celebrate these new arrivals:

Lia Nicole Fu Bei Emry, born on February 1, 2006 in Chongqing, China. Welcomed into the Emry family on October 30. Daughter of Deidre Emry, granddaughter of **Donna and Jack Emry**. Niece of **Leisel** and Josh **Emry**.

We extend our Christian sympathy to:

The family of **Ruth Copeland**, who passed on November 3 at age 102.

Marvin Gibson on the loss of his wife, former MUMC member Jean Gibson, on November 15.

Former member Pauline Matthews on the loss of her husband, Robert "Bob" Matthews, on November 15.

The family of **Sara "Sally" Bedwell**, who passed on November 17.

Sue and Nate Higginbotham on the loss of her brother, Edward Hardin, on November 24. Uncle of Tom Higginbotham and **Lori (Mike) Pauk**. Great-uncle of Parker Higginbotham and Courtney Pauk.

(MUMC members are in bold.)



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 Au Gratin 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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Manchester United
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 129 Woods Mill Road
 Manchester, MO 63011-4339
 (636) 394-7506
 (636) 527-1967 TTY



www.manchesterumc.org

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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 - December 15 for publication January 12, 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