

The Messenger

MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 12, 2007

VOLUME XI



Nancy Cooper
Youth Director

God Is Showing Up Everywhere - and It's Exciting!

Another year has begun and is already quickly moving along. I hope the New Year finds you eagerly anticipating how God will show up in your life this year. I know I am looking forward to exciting and new things with the youth this year. Confirmation has begun again so there are nearly sixty 7th and 8th graders who will be exploring their faith and making a decision about following Christ in the next few months. That's always exciting for us. But even more exciting for me this year is that we have a handful of youth who were confirmed last year who are choosing to come again this year for a new class - "The Journey Continues." These are students who want to grow deeper in their faith. That's exciting!

Another new opportunity for our youth this year is a conference-sponsored training for youth who want to grow in leadership. They will attend a retreat at Central Methodist University where they will explore their call to ministry and complete their Local Lay Speaker Certification. Seeing youth who are excited about how God is calling them to be in ministry is exciting to me!

Later this month our Senior High youth will have another opportunity to meet with youth from the Islamic Foundation and United Hebrew congregations to openly discuss their faith with each other. Beginning conversations of understanding with other faith traditions is exciting!

Next month our youth will once again fast for 30 hours and collect money to end world hunger – a time when many of us experience God's presence in our lives.

If you ever find yourself feeling like God doesn't show up in your life very often – maybe you should consider working with our youth. We who work with the youth of this church are privileged to see God showing up all the time – and *that's* exciting!

Nancy



God has a way of showing up in youth's experiences during the 30 Hour Famine, coming in February.

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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,

One important part of my renewal leave last summer was to study the ministry of Saint Paul. As you know, Paul was one of the major interpreters of the meaning and significance of the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus. He traveled the Mediterranean world spreading the gospel as he experienced and understood it. He was the author of a major portion of the New Testament.

We need the participation of each person to become the church God wants us to be.

One of the communities in which Paul founded a Christian Church was Corinth, Greece. During these first weeks of the new year, I will be preaching on portions of Paul's letters to his church in Corinth. Those letters give us glimpses into the life of a very early Christian congregation and in doing so give us insights into how to live as Christians in our world today.



As we begin the new year, we will also be attending to the pragmatic duties of completing our 2007 operating budget. If you have not returned a commitment of prayer, presence, gifts, and service; please do so. We need the participation of each person to become the church God wants us to be.

I hope to see you in worship.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl".

Carl L. Schenck
Senior Pastor

**manchester
united
methodist**

music

**Joy of Music
Concert Series
Presents**



**Swingin'
the Night Away**

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

Tickets on sale now!

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**.

New Members Get Plugged In

By Angela Schaefer



New Member Jen White

There are many ways people get introduced to Manchester United Methodist Church. Some invitations come from friends, others are invited by the church itself as they drive down highway 141 or Manchester Road. Some may come across an advertisement for our music programs and concerts, and many families learn about MUMC by enrolling their children in the Circle of Friends Preschool (COF) program.

Jen White, her husband Larry and their three girls were introduced to our church through COF. Jen remembers, "We brought our children to school here and I witnessed a special connection between parents as they talked about their church experiences and Larry and I realized we wanted to be a part of those experiences and share that connection."

The White's joined the church in August 2005 and Jen joined the COF committee in October. A trained educator, she felt that she could contribute something valuable to the pre-school program, although she had no idea how quickly she would be tapped to serve. Jen said, "I filled out my Every Member in Ministry card and checked the box for the committee. As luck would have it, someone from the committee moved and there was an immediate opening."

Jen says she has a special bond with the other committee members and shares a common goal to maintain an early childhood experience that provides a Christian foundation for the youngest members of our church as well as those in the community.

In addition to her work on the COF committee, Jen provides Meals for Moms (and dads) and is a substitute Sunday school teacher.

Jen and her husband agree, "As a family, we feel like this is exactly where we were called to be."

December New Members

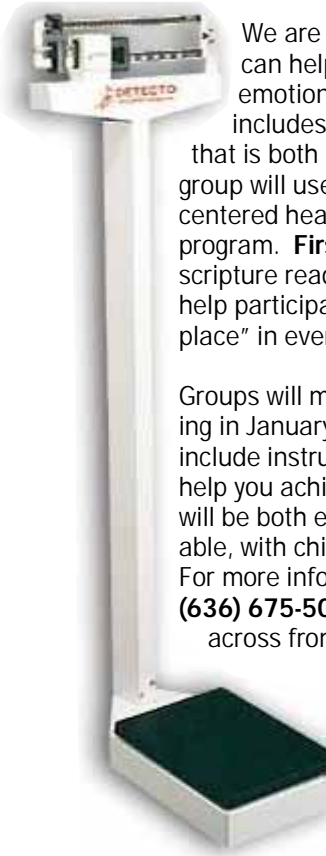
Welcome to the December New Members who join us in prayer, service, and fellowship at Manchester United Methodist Church.



- Don and Jan Bloomfield**
- Connie Fritz**
- Mikaela Hirner**
- Jeff and Marilyn Jacober**, Sarah and Michael
- Pat Jeske**
- Mike Olwig**
- Tammy Oslica**, William
- Ron Pfeiffer**
- Jack and Karen Scott**, Emma and Ethan
- Brooke and Leah Williams**, Anna Mae and Ivy
- James and Amanda Willis**

Lose Those Holiday Pounds, but Gain So Much More

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



We are offering a total-wellness program that can help you achieve your goals of physical, emotional AND spiritual health. The 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 thirteen 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 childcare 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:

- **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.

MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP

Enroll Now at Marriage University

We are proud to announce that MUMC's Marriage University is beginning its fourth year of supporting healthy marriages by continuing to offer marriage education courses for both engaged and married couples. We are the only church that is offering these courses on a regular basis to both members and nonmembers. These courses teach communication and conflict resolution skills that can strengthen relationships at any stage of marriage. The classes are part of a series of classes developed by Interpersonal Communication, Inc. and have been taken by more than 600,000 couples nationwide. MUMC has certified leader couples trained specifically to lead these classes in a fun and interesting way.

The next class to be offered by Marriage University is the beginning class "Talking and Listening Together." This is an eight-hour class taught on four consecutive Wednesday evenings (each class session lasts two hours). Classes will begin on **Wednesday, February 7** and end **February 28**. Classes are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Child care is available. Cost for the course and the materials is \$90.00 per couple. Enrollment is limited to twelve couples, so early sign-up is recommended. Call Jan Doyle in the church office at **(636) 200-4723** to reserve a place in the class. Questions? Call the instructors, Judy and Dave Craft at **(636) 391-1559**.

We hope you will take advantage of this great class to strengthen your relationship. There is no better investment for the future of your marriage. See you in class.



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).

Christmas Offerings Bring Hope

by the Mission Funds Committee

The Mission Moments in our Advent services focused on three agencies that are supported by MUMC through the Christmas Offering.

Internationally we heard about Nuevo Casas Grandes, Mexico where Mission Teams from MUMC have been going for five years building a Methodist church for a community of 60,000 people. In addition to being a place of worship, this congregation plans to hold health clinics at the church to provide medical care for the children and their families who cannot afford medical care on their own.

We found out about the people living in the Heart of Appalachia, Kentucky. These individuals live in an isolated area and benefit from the education, health, and community outreach ministries of the Red Bird Mission. In addition to a school and clinic, Red Bird provides home health care workers for the elderly and homebound as well as home repairs. Craft shop outlets allow residents to earn an income while producing their products at home.

Finally, we heard about how the needy families and individuals of our own area of Parkway, Rockwood, and Valley Park school districts are served through Circle of Concern. Since 1967, the Circle has fed hungry people, helped families stay warm and get the medicine they needed, provided scholarships and school supplies to students, and in many other ways assisted the working poor as they struggled to survive.

God commands us to go out into the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Through your gift in the Christmas Offering envelope, over forty agencies like those described above, are supported. THANK you for helping bring hope and love to those less fortunate.

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

Shopping for Our Dreams

As always, gift cards to Dierbergs, Schnuck's, 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. The new Schnuck's eScrps card is free; after it is registered, MUMC receives five percent of purchases made using the card.

Also, you can shop online for items from A to Z at your favorite stores from the comfort of your home. While you save time and gas, an average of ten percent of your purchases are donated back to MUMC! You'll find an abundance of online specials, no-shipping-cost offers, tax-free stores, gift cards, and access to each store's full stock. 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.

Thank you for shopping for our dreams!

www.bign.com/manchesterumc



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 - \$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.

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.

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

Sixth Graders Enjoying Their First Year in Youth Group



by Ed Heins

Abbie Brinkhorst is enjoying her first year in Youth Group activities at MUMC. "It's a good way to get to know Christ better," she feels, and says there are many fun activities

There are lots of fun things to do for young children at MUMC but the pace steps up when the kids become 6th graders and eligible to join Youth Group. In interviews, first-time Youth Groupers say they like the increase in programs and activities.

Abbie, 12, is a 6th grader at Parkway Southwest Middle School. She likes the idea of having Youth Group activities on both Sundays and Wednesdays. She also likes the chance to be in groups that take part in mission and retreat activities.

She said, "It's cool. The activities get us a little closer to what it all means in the world."

"The activities get us a little closer to what it all means in the world."

-Abbie Brinkhorst

Kari Ford, 11, didn't do many things in church when she was younger. Her participation in Youth Group is her first major effort at MUMC.

On Wednesdays, she said she takes part in the SGO (Sixth Grade Only) group, has dinner and then participates in Media Club. Media Club activities are her favorites.

"We get to take pictures, develop the film and print pictures," she said. She added the kids also get to use digital cameras and then edit the pictures on computers. She especially likes trips the club takes to different places to shoot pictures.

Vika Himpel, 12, said she likes the small group discussions about religion and activities around the church. "Talking about God with friends makes it easier," the Southwest Middle School 6th grader finds.

She also likes the chance to make videos during the Wednesday Media Club sessions. "We trade off between doing the acting and taking the pictures," she said.

Rachel Mustain, 11 and a student at Parkway West Middle School, thinks the SGO discussions allow her to understand the Bible better. "Two weeks ago, we read a story out of the Bible and then made a play out of it," she said.

For Rachel, the small group activities have been the best part of the Youth Group experience so far. Also, she is happy that many of her best friends are in the choir with her.

Both Abbie and Vika mentioned a recent Blue Mountain weekend retreat as one of their favorite Youth Group activities away from MUMC. Vika liked the opportunity to do some clean-up work in the woods around the camp.

Abbie enjoyed the chance to help prepare Thanksgiving dinners for needy families. "We helped bag rice that was included in the dinner packages," she said.

She also took part in the "reverse trick-or-treating" last Halloween. In that, the kids made up bags with candy and printed materials about MUMC and gave the bags out when they knocked on doors of homes in neighborhoods.

Several of the girls are looking forward to one of their next trips, which will include eagle watching. That's coming up in January, which is one of the top times of the winter to view eagles in the St. Louis area.

Looking ahead, Abbie said she's glad to be able to participate in Spirit Camp in the summer.

If you'd like to know more about the opportunities for youth at MUMC, you can call the church office at **(636) 394-7506**.

January 13 and 14

Isaiah 62:1-5
 Psalm 36:5-10
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
 John 2:1-11

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

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

Sunday 9 a.m. Traditional
 Rev. Debby Peebles (Sanctuary)

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

January 20 and 21

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
 Luke 4:14-21

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

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

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

January 28 and 27

Jeremiah 1:4-10
 Psalm 71:1-6
 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
 Luke 4:21-30

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@manchestermc.org.

We celebrate these new arrivals:

Scott and Stephanie Oetjen on the birth of their daughter, Perry Ann Oetjen, on September 9.

Maj. Christian and Kara Ketcherside on the birth of their son, Alexander Christian Ketcherside, on November 5. Proud grandparents are **Charles and Kathy Ketcherside**. Proud aunt and uncle are **Pat and Bill Todd**. Cousins are **Andy and Katie Todd**.

Barbara Campbell-Harris and David Harris on the birth of their daughter, Michaela Grace Harris, on December 12. Proud grandparents are **Mike and Pam Campbell** and Michael and Susan Harris.

Joe and Peggy McAuliffe on the birth of their triplets, Colleen Martin, Daniel Patrick, and James Joseph McAuliffe, on December 14. Proud aunt and uncle are **Mary and Erik Corley**. Cousins are Emily and Patrick Corley.

Rebecca and Jay Arcarese on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Grace Arcarese, on December 17. Brother is Sam. Proud grandparents are **Steve and Diane Harbaugh**.

We extend our Christian sympathy to:

Becky Litherland on the passing of her husband, **Ron Litherland**, on December 9.

The family of **Marilyn Ridenhour**, who passed on December 18.

(MUMC members are in bold.)

Dear Friends,
 Our thanks to each of you for your demonstrations of caring during Nathan's illness and the death of my brother, Ed. The cards, visits and telephone calls were appreciated. The prayers were what got us through this sad time. Your kindnesses will be remembered.

Sue and Nathan Higginbotham



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

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DATED MATERIAL

**Meal-A-Month
January Menu**

- Canned beef stew
- Boxed Jell-O
- Fruit cocktail
- Boxed muffin mix

Optional

Kleenex



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

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- 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 19 for publication February 9, 2007

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

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