

The Messenger

MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 28, 2006

VOLUME X



Carol Long
Director of Family,
Wellness, and Recreation

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CarolLong17 : ~TypicalTeen91~
File Edit Insert People Warning Level: 0%

~TypicalTeen91~: SUP? NM, SSDD LTNS H2CUS A3 TAM? K SPST? SLAP
G2G, PRW, SRY LOL, CYA L8R

If you understood the one-sided conversation above, then you probably spend a lot of time instant or text messaging. I know because I have communicated with my teens that way. The scary thing is that we had four teenaged girls in our house with barely a noise. We knew something was wrong. We found them hovering over the computer “talking” to their friends. Well, we decided to do something radical: we unplugged the computer for the month of June. You would have thought a tragedy had occurred by the way the kids responded to our announcement.

According to Lynn Smith-Lovin, a Duke University sociologist, Americans today are more socially isolated than they were two decades ago. People may have 250+ friends on the popular internet social networking sites MySpace or Facebook, and they may email 25 people on a daily basis, but they do not have that close inner circle of friends they can depend on for support. Only eight percent of those involved in the study said they could confide in a neighbor.

These reports lend support to Harvard professor Robert D. Putman’s book *Bowling Alone*, in which he provides evidence of the social decline since 1965. According to his findings, Americans go on 60 % fewer picnics, have dinner as a family 40% less often, and are less likely to meet at clubs or go bowling as groups.

So what are we going to do with this information? Well, that is up to each family to decide. I know that my home has been a more peaceful, welcoming, accepting home since we unplugged the technology and plugged into our kids. The girls not only survived, but they thrived. My husband and I were so happy with the improved family time that we are considering unplugging for the month of August – but don’t tell the kids.

By the way, here is the translation of ~TypicalTeen91~:

What’s up? Not much. Same stuff, different day. Long time no see. Hope to see you soon. Anytime, anywhere, anyplace. Tomorrow in the A.M? O.K. Same place, same time? Sounds like a plan. Got to go, parents are watching, sorry. Laugh out loud. See ya. Later.

For more information on techno abbreviations, check out webopedia.com.

CarolLong17 has entered text.

Warn Block Expressions Games Video Talk

While you’re online looking up ways to communicate with the kids, don’t forget to stop by Carl’s blog, *Faith and Empire*. Read about his thoughts and experiences in Europe, and check out the fantastic photos of places he visits.
www.faithandempire.com

Have you ever had one of those days when it's 102° outside and the car breaks down, the air conditioner goes out, and your computer fails? You soon realize that almost everything will fail at some time. The same holds true for those around us. And of course there are the times we disappoint ourselves.



It is a comfort to know that no matter how lost or down we get, God will be there for us and not let us go.

This disappointment can lead to giving up. When I worked in England with a soup kitchen ministry the most common situation I experienced was individuals who had given up on themselves. Care for their own body, personal safety and welfare was no longer a concern for them.

What we all yearn for is a love that will not let us down. George Matheson, in his hymn "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" (UMH 480), expresses how God's love is deeper and stronger than our own. He speaks of a love and devotion that will not quit and will not desert us.

One thing you can be sure about today and any day is that if you are on the fringe of life, or just downright lost, God is seeking you out in His love. He is there to receive you. We know this to be true and real, as Jesus sought out those who were on the fringe of society.

We are called to go as Christ Himself went to places and situations where the majority fears to tread. We go into the slums of our cities and offer God's love and assistance through our Metro Ministries and Kingdom House. We go into our jails and our prisons with our Chaplains. We offer our Epworth Children's Home to troubled and abused youth. We provide rehabilitation for a war-torn world every time we give to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

It is a comfort to know that no matter how lost or down we get, or how much we fail, God will be there for us and will not let us go. Also, it is a calling for us in that such a compelling and seeking love of God drives us as Christians to be like Jesus and go into every highway and by-way of human existence to share this wonderful seeking love of God.

Missionaries devote their time to doing just that. They go into those highways and by-ways, often where people feel most lost or neglected, to remind them that God's love is indeed always there and will not leave their side. During the coming weeks, MUMC will be "Putting a Face on Missions," and you will have an opportunity to meet first hand some of the missionaries that the church assists. Through our support of these missionaries we can help spread God's seeking love, a love that will not let you go.

Rev. Gene Morse
Acting Senior Pastor

Our Financial Commitment to Christ

Phil Estes, Business Administrator

Operating Commitments through June 30, 2006

Year-to-date giving and expense compares favorably to the June 2005 surplus of \$59,941. June 2006 results:

Commitments Received	\$1,334,401
Expense	\$1,287,506
Surplus (Deficit)	\$46,895

Building Fund Commitments through June 30, 2006

MUMC has collected 57.64 percent of the total 2006 Building Fund Commitment.

Current Commitment Total	\$373,291
Total Collected	\$215,172
Remaining Balance	\$158,119

Attendance

Average weekly worship attendance through June was 1493, a 3.46% percent decrease over the same period in 2005.



**Take one hour.
Save three lives.**



What: American Red Cross Blood Drive
Where: Old Fellowship Hall
When: **Sunday, July 30**, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Blood supplies are currently very low - we need you!

Donors will receive a t-shirt designed exclusively for the Red Cross with a picture of Busch Stadium on it. Drop-ins welcome!

Go to www.givelife.org to learn more about the importance of giving blood.

Top 5 Reasons to Give Blood: **5.** *You get free juice and cookies.* **4.** *Nobody can ask you to do any heavy lifting as long as you have the bandage on. You can wear it for as long as you like. It's your badge of honor.* **3.** *You will walk a little taller afterwards — you will feel good about yourself.* **2.** *You will be someone's hero — you may give a newborn, a child, a mother or a father, a brother, or a sister another chance at life. In fact, you may help save up to three lives with just one donation.* **1.** *It's the right thing to do.*

List courtesy of the American Red Cross.

Benjamin Franklin Exhibit

The Revolutionary thinker, statesman and inventor Benjamin Franklin is brought back to life in the largest collection of Franklin artifacts ever assembled. The **Sixty Plus Fellowship** will take a trip to the History Museum to see the exhibit and discover why many historians call Franklin the "First American."



Where: North parking lot of the church
When: **Tuesday, August 15**, at 9 a.m.
How Much: \$3 per person for transportation

Lunch will be at Miss Sheri's Cafeteria, at your own cost. We may visit an antique shop if you desire before returning to the church.

Call Allie Garrison for reservations at **(636) 391-9711**.

Look for Franklin's words of wisdom on the side of each page in this issue of The Messenger!

MUMC's Online Shopping Mall

Manchester United Methodist Church now has an online shopping mall. Up to 35% commissions are donated to MUMC when you make your purchases at more than 80 stores. Save money and help the church at the same time. Call Lorraine Hackman with questions at **(636) 256-8049**, or email lhack@charter.net.

www.bign.com/manchesterumc

Foster Parents Needed At Epworth

Epworth began connecting children to nurturing foster families in 2005. Epworth provides training and assessment for individuals, couples and families who have room in their homes and lives for a child in need. There are thousands of children throughout Missouri who need the love, care, and support a foster home can offer. Epworth foster families are licensed through the Children's Division and receive financial assistance, ongoing training and professional support.

If you want to make a difference, there are some basic requirements you must fulfill:

- At least 21 years of age
- Free of criminal history
- Employed or have adequate income
- Willing to attend a nine-week training class
- Willing to participate in a home study and disclose financial information
- With or without biological children

For more information about foster parenting, call Amy LaBelle, MSW at **(314) 918-3350** or email alabelle@epworth.org.

Manchester Methodists on the Move

Godspeed to our members who have moved away! We do not always hear about all the people in our fellowship who have moved away from St. Louis, but we have recently received information on the members listed below. So, when you know of a family moving away, please notify the office.

We would like to say goodbye and join together in blessing these members on behalf of their entire church. For their time with us we give thanks to God and ask that He prepare a new place for them and make them welcome in a new fellowship. As they have been known and loved in our church, may they soon be known and loved in another.

To them we say: "Go with God. May you always rest in the assurance that God will lead you, will be with you, and will not fail you or desert you. Have no fear. Do not be disheartened by anything." Amen.

- Baker, Leah & Luccus Workman; Wilmington, NC
- Eaton, Faith; Nokomis, FL
- Lorah, Bob, Julie & Brett; Naperville, IL
- Martin, Bob, Carol, Toby & Julia; Guyton, GA
- Pilkington, Mark & Cathryn, Britain & Brogan; Powell, OH
- Renne, Jim, Julie, Emily & James; Newburgh, IN
- Rolwing, Shelly, & Connor; Columbia, MO
- Smallwood, Jim & Debbie; Valparaiso, IN
- Tracy, Dan, Susan & Sean; Naperville, IL

"Wish not so much to live long as to live well." - Benjamin Franklin

MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP

MUMC Chapel 150th Birthday Celebration Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2006

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors for 150 Years



Performance by the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band on **Saturday, September 30** at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary for 1 - 1½ hours.

A “Circuit Rider” demonstration, including horse & rider along with an oral history, will take place the same day.

Watch *The Messenger* for more details.

Young Adult Adventure

For Whom: 20 – 30-somethings
When: Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.
Where: Room 310

Join us as we view and discuss NOOMA videos that help us focus on some of the realities of being a Christian. This contemporary video format is one that provides guidance and prompts lots of discussion. Topics include: Why do things not always work out the way we want? What’s up with the word “love?” How is our religion relevant to us today? and many more. Visit the NOOMA website for more information: www.nooma.com.

Questions? Please call Sharon Peebles at (314) 704-4402.

B.A.S.I.C. (Brothers and Sisters in Christ)

Looking for continuing fellowship with college-aged young adults? Join us on Wednesday nights from 7-9 p.m. in Room 141. We hope to see you there.

For more information, call Carrie Lester at (314) 401-2698, or Zach Hopkins at (636) 541-2121.

Upcoming Singles Events

Sunday, July 30, 7:15 p.m.
MUMC history talk and tour. Ice cream social following.



Check the West County Singles website for information and updates at:
www.westcountysingles.com

Women’s Fall Weekend Retreat

Finding Balance in Our Lives (The Mary and Martha Within)

Join us for this weekend opportunity to reflect on the Mary and Martha parts of our lives and to see the beauty in each of them. The retreat will be held at the Marianist Retreat & Conference Center in Eureka beginning **Friday** afternoon, **September 22**, and continuing through **Sunday** early afternoon, **September 24**.

The retreat costs \$140 (this includes the 2 night stay, retreat program, six community meals, snacks, and supplies) or \$75 (without overnight accommodations). There are a limited number of rooms available on a first come, first served basis. Registration deadline is **Tuesday, August 29**.

For more information or if you are interested in participating, please pick up a brochure/registration form at any of the Welcome Centers around church or contact Leona Dunsmoor directly in the church office at (636) 200-4746.



New Women’s Ministry—Retreat Planning

After a very successful women's spiritual retreat earlier this year, a new ministry was born! Peggy Andereck and Margaret Mahan have stepped forward to lead this group in planning and coordinating future retreats. If you would like to help with those stages, please contact Leona Dunsmoor at (636) 200-4746 in the church office to update your Every Member In Ministry form.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Peggy at (636) 227-4665 or pandereck@sbcglobal.net, or Margaret at (636) 825-9865 or mmahan2437wilson@sbcglobal.net.

Ladies Daytime Bridge Begins in September

Kickoff for Ladies Daytime Bridge is Wednesday, **September 13**, at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Eleven pairs from last year signed up in the spring and are looking forward to meeting new bridge players. Each person contributes \$18 (most of which is donated to missions) and receives the schedule at the kickoff. The group plays monthly, except in December, and ends with a luncheon next May. After the kickoff in Fellowship Hall, each hosting pair will arrange a convenient date with the opponents each month.

If you would like to play, be a substitute, or need more information or a partner, call Peggy Zimmerman at **(314) 434-3456**.

Help Build a House for Habitat for Humanity-St. Louis

Lots of hands and hearts are needed this year because MUMC will be working on two Habitat houses. We are sponsoring one house with four West County churches and assisting with another house being built by all of the United Methodist Churches in our district.



Anyone over 15 years old is eligible. All are welcome, from novices to handymen and handy-women. Workers are needed on **Saturdays August 5 and September 9**. Also, volunteers are needed for **Wednesdays**. Another way to support this important ministry is to sponsor the MO-Hab Riders who fund the build! To sign up to work, contact Barb and Terry Zenser at **(636) 394-4608** or email zenser@sbcglobal.net.

Putting a Face on Missions

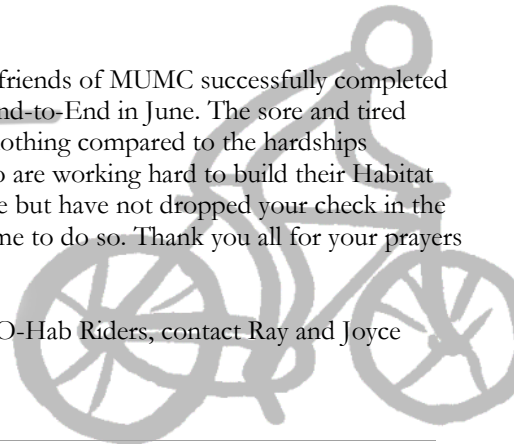
Did you know that you are in mission in downtown St. Louis? You are also helping with tornado clean up throughout Missouri. You are at work helping people in Mozambique and you are spreading Christ's message in Russia, too. By contributing to the Mission Fund offerings, you help support four missionaries who are *your hands* in these areas. Through Mission Moments, taking place during services in August, you will have the opportunity to meet and to learn about these individuals. Watch this space for more details!

coming august

MO-Hab Riders

Twenty-nine members and friends of MUMC successfully completed the 9th Annual Katy Trail End-to-End in June. The sore and tired bodies we put up with are nothing compared to the hardships endured by the families who are working hard to build their Habitat Home. If you made a pledge but have not dropped your check in the offering plate, now is the time to do so. Thank you all for your prayers and support.

To learn more about the MO-Hab Riders, contact Ray and Joyce Smith at **(636) 256-7864**.



Upcoming New Member Classes

August New Member Class
Thursday, August 3 - Dinner and orientation at 6:30 p.m.
Join **Sunday, August 13**

September New Member Class
Thursday, September 7 - Dinner and orientation at 6:30 p.m.
Join **Sunday, September 17**



Reservations required.

For more information or to make reservations, contact Betsy Vicente, Coordinator of New Member and Volunteer Ministries at **(636) 200-4720** or email: betsy.vicente@manchesterumc.org

United Methodist Women—Hands In Mission Day

Please join us as we volunteer our hands in mission at the Metro Homeless Center on **Saturday, August 19**, from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be a variety of jobs/needs at all levels for us to participate in as we Seek Christ, Share Christ, and Serve Christ. We plan to use the MUMC bus and will leave at 8:15 a.m.

If you are interest in joining us that day, please contact Diana Van Leuven at **(636) 230-7603** or dvanleuven@sbcglobal.net, or Leona Dunsmoor at **(636) 294-3979** or ldunsmoor@aol.com.

Nationally Renowned Pianist and Composer Mark Hayes In Concert at MUMC!

Don't forget, on **August 6**, Mark Hayes will perform his *Well-Tempered Jazzy* collection here at MUMC. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. and is free to the public.

"What is serving God? 'Tis doing good to Man." - Benjamin Franklin

After False Starts, Jerry Esselman Has Completed Four Disciple Bible School Series

by Ed Heins

MUMC member Jerry Esselman said he started but didn't finish a Disciple Bible Study series a couple of different times in the past. He's now looking forward to the start this fall of his fifth DBS series, however.

"It was always something" that interrupted his attendance, he says of his false starts. For a time it was too much out-of-town travel for work.

"But," he speculated, "maybe the Lord wasn't ready for me to do that then."

Esselman completed his fourth DBS series this spring. His group decided to go on with the series "Jesus and the Gospels." He said their teacher from DBS III and IV, Tim Miller, will be leading the new series also.

Manchester United Methodist Church will be taking enrollment for the Disciple Bible Study classes in August. The classes meet once a week for two hours during a 34-week cycle, paralleling the regular school year.

MUMC offers DBS I, II, III and IV. First-time enrollees start with DBS I, which is an overall survey of the Bible. The following series take more in-depth looks at different areas of the Bible.

Esselman first joined MUMC in 1993. His wife, Wanda, had been a member and, Jerry said, "I thought it was important to pray with your spouse." He was brought up as a Catholic and had attended two years of seminary.

He said the Disciple Bible Study's comprehensive but informal approach to learning has been very useful.

"The tapes we hear are very helpful. But, understanding comes during group discussions with other class members. That's when you learn that God's commitment to us is perfect," he feels.

He said DBS study has helped him to understand the messages of the Lord and the Bible.

During his seminary years, Esselman read the Bible a lot. "But, I was just reading words. I didn't understand what I was reading," he admitted.

He thinks the fellowship of other DBS class members is a big part of the overall learning experience. "I've gained other 'family' here," he said. That's shown by the decision of his DBS class to move on to the "Jesus and the Gospels" series.

He said the whole DBS experience has enriched his faith.

He also said the intense study of the Bible and Christianity has improved his ability to pray. He now prays often to the Holy Spirit, following Jesus' admonition: "The Holy Spirit will help you to know me."

"I was just reading words [in the Bible]. I didn't understand what I was reading."

- Jerry Esselman

Esselman has been active in the MUMC Bike rehab mission and Mo-Hab Riders as well as Habitat for Humanity home building. He said Habitat's "Blitz Build" was a memorable experience for him. For that effort, which happened a few years ago, Habitat crews built 15 homes in 15 days.

He remembered that all the new home building caused other families in that Wellston neighborhood to clean up their own homes. He said the effect on the whole neighborhood was "unbelievable."

Esselman is a teacher at Ranken Technical College, located in an inner-city neighborhood in the city of St. Louis. Several years ago, that school decided to give their construction-trade students practical experience by building new housing near the school.

In addition to providing on-the-job training for students, the home building also improved the blighted area adjacent to the college. Esselman said as many as 60 new homes have been built by student and teacher labor.

Esselman said his membership at MUMC, with its opportunities for spiritual growth and service, have been very important to his life.

If you are interested in enrolling in a Disciple Bible School series, contact the church office at (636) 394-7506.

July 29 and 30

2 Samuel 11:1-15
 Psalm 14
 Ephesians 3:14-21
 John 6:1-21

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

Sunday, 8 and 10:30 a.m.
 Rev. Matt Miofsky (Sanctuary)

Sunday, 9 a.m. Traditional
 Rev. Steve Harbaugh (Sanctuary)

Sunday, 9 a.m. Contemporary
 Rev. Matt Miofsky (Fellowship Hall)

August 5 and 6

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
 Psalm 51:1-12
 Ephesians 4:1-16
 John 6:24-35

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

Sunday, 8, 9 and 10:30 a.m.
 Rev. John Hayward (Sanctuary)

Sunday, 9 a.m. Contemporary
 Stephanie Hibray (Fellowship Hall)

August 12 and 13

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
 Psalm 130
 Ephesians 4:25-5:2
 John 6:35, 41-51

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

Sunday, 8, 9 and 10:30 a.m.
 Rev. John Hayward (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 celebrate these new arrivals:

Tony and Jennifer Hoskins, on the birth of their son, Dylan Jacob Hoskins, on May 23. Brothers are Brendan and Spencer.

Autumn and Brian Massey, on the birth of their daughter, Isabelle Marie Massey, on July 6. Big sister is Anna.

Rick and Dana Evans, on the birth of their son, Mason Alan Evans, on July 7. Big brother is Carter.

We celebrate these new homes created:

Debbie Miller and Mark Loso, on July 8. Mark is the son of Don and Pat Loso.

Heather Harweck and Andy Luckner, on July 15.

We extend our Christian sympathy to:

The family of **Paul and Audree Ewald**. Audree passed on July 7, and Paul passed on July 13. They are survived by Pete and **Janet Newcomb, Kathryn and Shannon**.

Sara Bedwell, on the passing of her husband, **Ben Bedwell**, on July 9.

Stephanie and Brad Buechler, on the passing of her mother, **Anne L. Walker**, on July 15. She is also survived by grandson Brian Buechler.

(MUMC members are in bold.)

“Fear not death; for the sooner we die, the longer shall we be immortal.” - Benjamin Franklin



Manchester United Methodist Church
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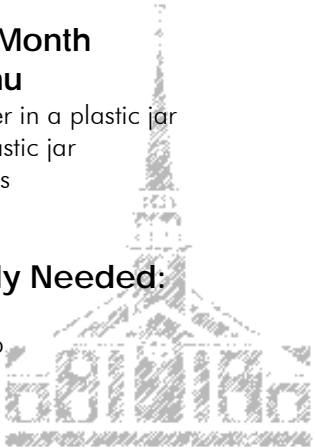
DATED MATERIAL

**Meal-A-Month
 July Menu**

- Peanut butter in a plastic jar
- Jam in a plastic jar
- Green beans
- Muffin mix

Especially Needed:

- Shampoo
- Bars of soap
- Toothpaste



the messenger

Staff:

- Rev. Eugene Morse, *Acting 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*
- Carol Long, *Director of Family, Wellness and Recreation*
- 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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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 - August 4 for publication August 25, 2006

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