

The Messenger

MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 24, 2006

VOLUME X

That Time of Year Again



Debby Peebles
Pastor of
Congregational Care

When you receive this Messenger, you will probably have a refrigerator packed with the leftovers from the Thanksgiving dinner: the dark meat from the turkey, the Jell-O salad that looked great on the table, but nobody wants to finish, the stuffed celery that is now a bit limp, and a couple of slices of pumpkin pie with no leftover whipped cream. If you are like me, there is still the roasting pan soaking on the day after Thanksgiving. Or maybe you were part of that crowd that chose to travel on the busiest weekend of the year and you are taking a breather from unpacking and getting ready for a normal week if one could ever call the weeks leading to Christmas normal.

Yes, there is something about these weeks that lead to Christmas that are not normal. This time of year our United Methodist vows of **prayers, presence, gifts, and service** just come so much easier. O.K., maybe not **prayers!** But then there are the prayers that the traffic will be lighter on the way to the mall, the prayers that a parking spot will open up by our third drive through the parking lot, and our prayers that the sale item that will make the perfect Christmas gift will still be on the shelf.

Even **presence** is not as hard this time of year. We want to be present for the Hanging of the Green, we want to be present for White Gifts, we want to be present for the Joy of Music Christmas concert, and of course, we want to be present for worship on Christmas Eve.

And then there are the **gifts**. Oh, sure, we buy the gifts for the family and friends. We buy gifts for the children's teachers, the person who delivers the mail, and the woman who cuts our hair, but we also buy and wrap gifts for people we have never met and probably never will meet. We pick a name off of a tree at the grocery store and buy some gifts for them. We place a gift in a box at Target. We drop some change in the Salvation Army kettle. And of course we bring gifts wrapped in white for White Gifts. Maybe we join in with our Sunday school class and bring gifts for an entire family. We might even bring gifts for a resident of West County Care Center.



And finally in this very busy time of the year, we still find time to **serve**. We might sign up for an evening at the United Methodist Men's Christmas tree lot. We might serve by helping with the mountain of White Gifts by separating what goes to Kingdom House, what goes to Metro, and what goes to Epworth and help transport them. Service for us might be signing up for the many extra greeters and ushers as we welcome the many visitors to Manchester United Methodist Church during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

As we practice our vows of prayers, presence, gifts, and service during the close of 2006 that has been fortified with the Christmas Spirit, may we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us as we begin the year of 2007 and we keep our vows of prayers, presence, gifts, and service.

Blessings to you as we begin the season of Advent and may the Holy Spirit guide you as we begin 2007.

Debby Peebles
Pastor of Congregational Care and **Wherever I Am Needed**

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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,

As we are in the process of wrapping up our stewardship effort for this fall, I have no hesitation or reluctance to ask you to give sacrificially to Christ's work through your church. In a culture that is drunken on self-indulgence, part of my calling is to give voice to God's message that there is a better way.



For over thirty years now, my household has annually given away twelve to twenty percent of our annual income to support Christ's work in the world. I can tell you from personal experience that giving in this way is a blessing not a deprivation. During these years we have raised a large family, sent children to and through college, lived very comfortably, eaten well, saved for retirement, taken enjoyable and refreshing vacations, bought good books, and wanted for nothing. Of course, we have not had some of the luxuries that are so popular these days. Our cars have generally been smaller and often older than those of others. Our travel has been modest. There have been sacrifices of extravagances, but never the loss of anything important.

...part of my calling is to give voice to God's message that there is a better way.

The result of this kind of life has been deeply rewarding. We know that we have done our small, but meaningful, part in making the church's witness stronger and the world a better place. There is more satisfaction in that than loss related to anything we have done without. It has been a very good life.

I want you to know this satisfaction. Your life will be richer if your giving is more extravagant.

In addition, the mission of the church to bring the love of God in Jesus Christ to the world will be furthered. Right now, MUMC needs to make a significant advance in its resource base. Our ministries are not well funded in many cases.

If you have not yet made your commitment for 2007, please do so now. And please do so in a way that will be a blessing to you and to others because of your extravagant generosity.

I hope to see you in worship this week.

Grace and Peace,



Carl L. Schenck
Senior Pastor

Our Financial Commitment to Christ

Phil Estes, Business Administrator

Operating Commitments through October 31, 2006

Commitments Received	\$2,142,006
Expense	\$2,183,121
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$41,115)

Building Fund Commitments through October 31, 2006

Current Commitment Total	\$373,291
Total Collected	\$325,899
Remaining Balance	\$47,392

MUMC has collected 87.30 percent of the total 2006 Building Fund Commitment.

Attendance

Average weekly worship attendance through October was 1398, a 4.54% percent decrease over the same period in 2005.



Upcoming New Member Classes



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

Holiday Bake Sale

The Hospitality Committee is sponsoring a Holiday Bake Sale on **Sunday, December 3**, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Tables will be located in the halls outside of Fellowship Hall.

The sale will feature Christmas cookies, holiday breads, pies, and candy—all homemade and delicious. You can make your selections on an individual basis, so plan on stocking up on sure-to-please taste treats.

Proceeds are used for special projects to benefit the church, and for mission outreach in the community, such as Circle of Concern.



Concert at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica

Join the Vesper Bell Choir at the Cathedral Basilica on **Tuesday, December 5**, for the 15th Annual Holiday Brass Concert performed by Susan Slaughter and friends. MUMC's handbell team will provide the pre-concert music at both concerts. The choir begins ringing at 1:45 and 7:30 p.m., one half-hour before the 2:15 and 8:00 p.m. performances. Doors open for seating one hour before the event. Purchase tickets in advance for this special celebration by calling **(636) 207-5783**.

Christmas Coventry Dinner

Tickets for the 25th annual Christmas Coventry dinner and concert, which will be held **Friday and Saturday, December 1 and 2** are now on sale. This event features a catered dinner by Westwood Catering followed by a concert featuring the Coventry Choir and Vesper Bell Choir. Tickets this year cost \$25 per person and will be sold in the narthex between services on **November 26**, or call Joy Parisien at **(636) 227-8655**.

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.

Attention Musicians

Our music ministry department has a need for accompanists at every level - from children's choirs to youth choirs to adult choirs, in both traditional and contemporary worship, and from part-time subbing or accompanying soloists to weekly choir assistance. If you are a pianist with an interest in sharing your gifts, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Kevin McBeth at **(636) 200-4712** or Lori Borger at **(636) 200-4716**.

MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP

Schedule of Advent Events

Friday, 11/24	UMM Christmas Tree Lot opens
Wednesday, 11/29	UMM Advent Breakfast, 6 a.m.
Friday, 12/1	Coventry Choir Dinner and Concert
Saturday, 12/2	Coventry Choir Dinner and Concert
Sunday, 12/3	Hanging of the Green services 8, 9, and 10:30 a.m. Traditional services
Tuesday, 12/5	Vesper Bell choir at St. Louis Cathedral Basilica
Wednesday, 12/6	UMM Advent Breakfast, 6 a.m.
Saturday, 12/9	Children's Christmas Festival, 8 a.m. to noon
Sunday, 12/10	White Gifts Sunday, all services
Wednesday, 12/13	UMM Advent Breakfast, 6 a.m.
Sunday, 12/17	Youth Caroling and Fruit Baskets and Chili Supper at 5 p.m.
Sunday, 12/17	Lessons and Carols concert with Bells starting at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, 12/20	UMM Advent Breakfast, 6 a.m.
Sunday, 12/24	Christmas Eve service schedule:

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

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

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

2006 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AT MUMC!



It's time to start looking forward to the upcoming 2006 Children's Christmas Festival. It takes place on **Saturday, December 9**, from 8 a.m. to noon. The format will be a bit different this year as we try to reduce the waiting time to have pictures made with Santa. Families will sign up for a one-hour time slot (e.g., 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.). During this hour the children will have breakfast, enjoy several craft projects, and have their picture taken with Santa. Tickets are \$5 and will be on sale **November 26** and **December 3** in the Children's Sunday School area. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Deidre Kroll at **(636) 227-8075**.

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 most need it. 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!

Senior High Dance - "Escape to Paradise"

Saturday, December 9

6 to 9 p.m.

Cost is \$12 with a donation of two coloring books at the time of ticket purchase to be donated to children in Iraq or \$15 without coloring books.

Last day to purchase tickets is **Wednesday, December 6!** You can purchase your tickets from John, Nancy, or Sharon in the Youth Department.

Manchester United Methodist Women

Mission Tea and Candle Burning Ceremony

Manchester UMC will be hosting this district event. All women of the church are invited to attend this meaningful meeting. Ceremony takes place **Sunday, December 3**, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Please call Marilyn Winterberger with any questions at **(636) 394-1931**.



“Side By Side” Interfaith Dinner

On Sunday, October 29, the youth hosted the first “Side By Side” dinner in partnership with United Hebrew Congregation and the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis. Sixty high school students from the three congregations met at Manchester UMC to share a meal together and to begin to break down barriers and begin conversations about our faith traditions. The evening began with a tour of the sanctuary and an explanation by Pastor Carl about our worship space. The students then moved to the Fellowship Hall for a wonderful dinner and time for conversation around the table. Each congregation was represented at each table and there were starter questions to help the youth begin to explore their faith traditions. Afterwards, a trivia game helped reinforce what they had learned from each other. The next dinner will be at the Islamic Foundation in January.



Young people of varied faiths had fun while learning about their differences and similarities at a recent Interfaith Dinner at MUMC.

Shopping for Our Dreams Online

Now there are two great ways to combine shopping and stewardship.

First, 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.

Second, you can help the church by shopping from home! Shop at your favorite stores by going to www.bign.com/manchesterumc and clicking on Big N Marketplace. This online shopping mall pays up to 35% commission back to MUMC and you get great deals too!

What are you waiting for? Stop by the table in the Narthex or go online today!

**In the near future, we will be changing to Schnucks eScrip Community Card.*

www.bign.com/manchesterumc



Young Adult Adventure for 20-and-30-somethings

**Saturday, December 2
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Give back by serving lunch at Centenary CARES to those who are in need. We need a minimum of eight people to do this. We will prepare lunch, serve lunch and then eat and clean up prior to returning to MUMC. This is a great opportunity

you won’t want to miss! Please sign up by emailing sharonpeebles@gmail.com.

**P-A-R-T-Why?
‘Cuz it’s Christmas!**

On **Friday, December 15** all 20-and-30-somethings should come to the YAA Christmas Party, from 7-10 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.

Attention Youth Leaders

Youth Leaders have an opportunity to meet with Susan Hay, Director of Youth Ministries from the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship on **Sunday, December 10** to learn more about how our youth ministry can be more effective. Susan will be with us Sunday and Monday and will spend time with youth, the Youth Leadership Team, adult volunteers, staff, and our senior pastor to help us evaluate our ministry and vision for what more it could be. Susan was involved with a recent study of churches of different denominations and sizes and will be able to provide insight into what makes a ministry successful.

Please plan to join us as we look to the future of youth ministry at Manchester. For more information, call Nancy Cooper at **(636) 200-4719**.

New Preschool Director Feels God Led Her to MUMC



Linda Clark said she feels like God led her to her new position as director of MUMC's Circle of Friends Early Childhood Center.

by Ed Heins

Clark, 57, had been widowed while living in Missouri as an elementary school principal. She then moved to Murphysboro, Tennessee, to be near her ailing mother,

who was also widowed.

After two years, Linda's mother died. Her grown children urged her to move back to Missouri to be nearer to them.

When she was in St. Louis looking for a condo, her realtor asked her what her occupation was. After Linda mentioned that she was an educator, the realtor said she knew MUMC was looking for a new pre-school director.

Linda interviewed for the MUMC job and was very pleased with the situation. "But, I told everyone that I had another year on my elementary principal position," she admits.

"I went back to Murphysboro and put my house on the market. It sold in just 10 days. That's when I felt like God led me here," she said.

"It also made me wonder why I had forgotten to turn the whole thing over to Him earlier," she said.

Linda started work at MUMC August 1.

She now directs a state-licensed pre-school program that started nearly 40 years ago. The school now serves 360 kids ranging in age from one to six. She said the teaching staff is excellent and all have college degrees.

"This is a great program. Most of the teachers have been here for many years. And, when I show the school to parents of prospective students, the teachers are one of the biggest selling points," she said.

Linda said another of the major selling points of the school is its full-time music staff. She said music plays a big part in the school's activity-based, play-based education program.

Some of the children in the MUMC pre-school have parents who aren't members of the church. However, once involved with pre-school, many families become church members.

Many new church members say they were first attracted to MUMC by its programs for children and music.

As for future goals, Linda said she would like the pre-school to continue its growth and also that teachers will be involved in additional professional development programs.

But, as to the growth, she admits that the school is pretty much at capacity. "All of the classrooms are filled at least part of every day," she said.

"When I show the school to prospective parents, the teachers are one of the biggest selling points."

-Linda Clark



Linda Clark, new director of Circle of Friends Preschool, in her office in the Children's Education Department.

November 25 and 26

Christ the King

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Psalm 132:1-12

John 18:33-37

Revelation 1:4b-8

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 2 and 3

Hanging of the Green

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

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 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)

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:

Angelena Westrup and Nick Mangnall on November 3.

Nicole Kadera and **Mike Dalton** on November 11.

Mike is the son of Harry and **Diane Lucas** and the grandson of **Vernon Schaffer**.

We celebrate these new arrivals:

Brooks and Suzie Ball on the birth of their daughter,

Annie Grace Ball, on October 12. Big brother is Sam.

Proud grandparents are **Don and Doris Ball**.

Cyndie and Chris Pelto on the birth of their daughter,

Lauren Grace Pelto, on October 24. Proud grandpar-

ents are **Michael and Linda Burke**.

Max and Laura Joukovski on the birth of their son,

Maxim Dmitrievich Joukovski, on November 8. Proud

grandparents are **Jo Ann** and Bruce **Jones**.

Erika and Blake Wootten on the birth of their son,

Jayden Glenn Wootten, on November 8. Big brother is

Noah. Proud grandparents are **Patti** and George

Wootten.

We extend our Christian sympathy to:

Suzanne and Conrad Busse on the passing of her

mother, Jeanette L. Kennedy, on November 2.

Bruce Pace on the passing of his wife, **Margaret**

“Peggy” Pace, on November 3. Also survived by

daughter **Laura Pace**.

Pat (Jim) Vincent and Barbara (Bob) Hemenway on

the passing of their brother, Delmar Thessereau, on

November 5.

(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
November Menu**

Canned chicken and dumplings
Boxed stuffing mix
Cranberry sauce
Green beans

Optional
Deodorant



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 - December 1 for publication December 22, 2006

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

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