

Volume 139—Issue 1

January 2011

The Voice

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Inspiring•Inviting•
Including•Instructing

First United Methodist Church
Growing disciples to reach others for
Christ



*Glory to God in highest
heaven, Who unto man His
Son hath given; While angels
sing with tender mirth,
A glad new year to all the
earth.*

~ Martin Luther

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS ANYONE???

Christmas will be over when this article goes to print. So, it is natural to start thinking about the new year. 2011 will be filled with many opportunities to serve the Lord and to serve one another in the body of Christ. As we do this, we can be sure that we will be influencing the world in a positive way as we bear witness to what Christ can do in our lives individually and corporately.

I would encourage everyone to consider how we can grow in our relationships with Jesus and with one another as we begin a new year. There are many "one another" verses in the Bible which are helpful in building close Christian relationships. I hope to do some preaching on those verses as we focus in on our relationships with one another.

Romans 12:20-21

Paul has a challenge for us here to love our enemies.

There is such wisdom and power in these simple words:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing so you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

I thought about this verse in December when contemplating my Christmas greeting card list. I didn't want to cross anyone off my Christmas list or gift list because they had been "bad" to me. According to Paul's instruction, our enemies ought to be at the top of our holiday sharing lists. In our day and age, even the pagans give Christmas gifts to their friends (to paraphrase Jesus). What makes Christians different is that we care passionately—for our enemies. We work hard to give them good gifts.

In loving those who have hurt or disappointed us, is there anyone in particular that you need to add back onto your list? Is there something that is particularly thoughtful that you could do for them?

This command of Jesus is a tough command but it comes with an amazing promise: if we obey, we will not be overcome by evil but instead will overcome evil with good. When we disappoint one another as brothers and sisters in Christ and we will more often than we would like... Let's be willing to love and forgive one another.

By the way, don't just call this a new year's resolution... call this a call from Jesus to be his faithful follower and peacemaker in a troubled world.

God bless you all in 2011.

Pastor Doug
Pastor Doug

Strategic Gathering (aka Planning Day)



All are invited to participate. Church Council and ministry teams are urged to participate. Saturday, January 22 at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall.

Please let the Church Office know if you plan to participate.

Removing of the Greens Party January 3 at 3—5:00 P.M.
What goes up must come down. We will all gather on Sunday afternoon to take down and store the Christmas decorations, all help is needed and appreciated!! We need everyone who is able to help. You can bring your left over goodies from Christmas to share when we are done.

Circle™ of Hope Information

Inspire change in our community and yourself in 2011: Offer friendship and support to Circle™ Leaders, individuals/families transitioning out of poverty. A Circles™ of Hope information session will be held on Saturday, January 8, 8:30 am – 4 pm, at the **First United Methodist Church**, 801 N. Main, Newton. Learn more about ways to be involved with Circles™ of Hope, including Bridges Out of Poverty and Ally training. No cost/lunch provided. To register call Peace Connections at 284-0000 or email us at info@peaceconnections.org

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions. ~Joey Adams



Happy New Year! from the Staff at FUMC
Pastor Doug, Roy, Roxie, David, Jay, Beverly, Barry, Karen, and Mary Beth.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

801 North Main
Newton, KS 67114

Phone: 316-283-2150
Fax: 316-283-1544

E-mail: info@firstchurchnewton.org
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Newton, Kansas 67114

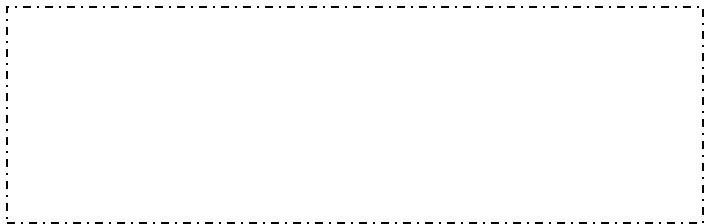
Permit No. 168

We're on the Web

www.FirstChurchNewton.org

This newsletter has been prayerfully prepared for:

Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
Dr. Doug Tofteland, Lead Pastor
Jay Anderson, Missions Pastor
Roy Pumphrey, Minister of Ministries
Roxie Truan, Office Secretary
Beverly Stigge, Choir Director
Barry Fulmer, Praise Team Leader
David Portlock, Custodian



G. I. C.
Friday, April 8th; Saturday, April 9th; & Sunday, April 10th
2011 Global Impact Celebration-FUMC

What is it?

A chance to get up-close and personal with missionaries to hear what God is doing right here in Kansas and around the world!!!

What to expect?

There will be dinners, music, speakers, all celebrating God's works through His people.

What should you do?

Make plans now. Circle those dates on your calendar.

You won't want to miss our keynote speaker, Dennis Wallace from Asbury UMC,

Wichita or any of the other missionaries we have lined up for you.

Join with the **Prayer Team**, led by Jeanenne Alumbaugh, in praying for our event to be in God's will so He can accomplish His purposes through us.

Watch for more details in your next newsletter, in bulletins, on flyers and brochures in the next few months.

~ Caroline Arner

Communications Team