

The Voice

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
REGULAR HAPPENINGS

Celebration of Love Service

On Sunday, February 13, at 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church.

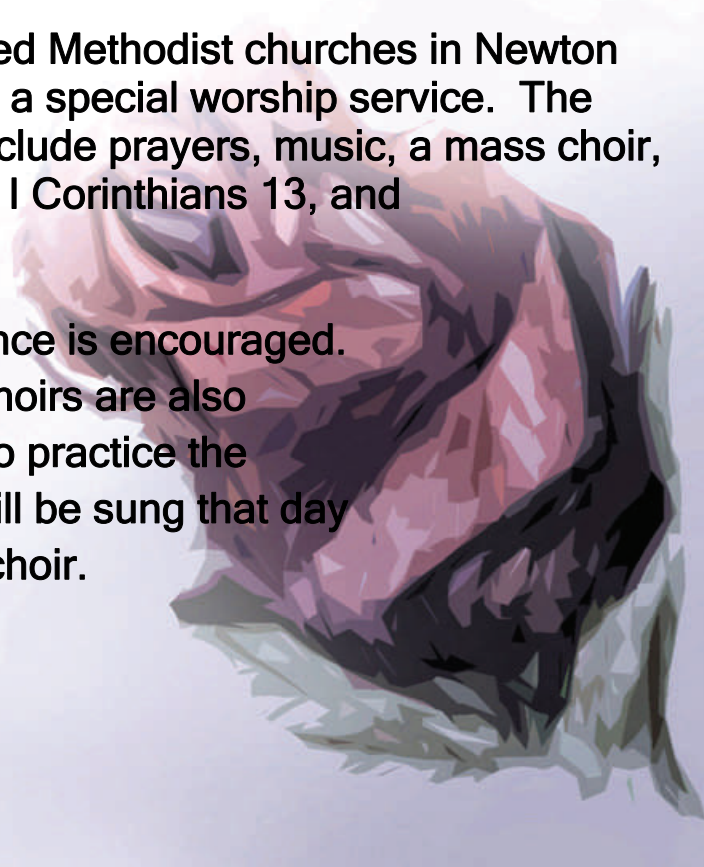
The four United Methodist churches in Newton will be having a special worship service. The service will include prayers, music, a mass choir, reflections on I Corinthians 13, and communion.

Your attendance is encouraged. Each of the choirs are also encouraged to practice the hymns that will be sung that day by the mass choir.



Inspiring•Inviting•
Including•Instructing

First United Methodist Church
Growing disciples to reach others for
Christ



Make Good Choices

I would like to encourage everyone to make healthy choices this year. January is over and New Year's resolutions have probably been made and broken many times by now. But, I would like for each one of us to make good choices as well as the church so when we look back at 2011 will see increased health in all of us.

A good question we should ask is, will we grow in loving God, loving others, and making disciples of Jesus Christ in 2011? Positive choices of trusting God and obeying Him must be made along the way. If by grace we choose a life of prayer, falling deeper in love with Jesus, living by His Word, and if in humility and vulnerability we ask each other to help us live as God calls us to live, then chances are good that a year from now we will be healthier than we are now!

If we want to focus on increasing physical health and strength, we know what we will need to do! We will be careful to only put into our bodies what is good for us. We will exercise regularly, get sufficient rest, and pay attention to our physical health. These are healthy choices and if we consistently do them all year we will surely be healthier!

So what about making choices to increase our spiritual health in 2011? The Bible is helpful in setting a course for spiritual growth. I Timothy 4:15 says,

“Be diligent in these matters, give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.”

Notice the words “diligence” and “progress” in this verse. They remind us to aim for spiritual growth. May this be our goal in 2011. Isn't life too precious and aren't our years too few to be stuck in the past, living in memories of days gone, or shuffling through the present with regret, or with too little vision for a fruitful tomorrow? In Jesus Christ we all have reason for looking ahead with optimism and hope. So lets do it! I pray we will experience this in our own hearts as we plan for the future.

Let us encourage one another to look up more, trust Jesus more, and move forward together. By His grace, we will see increased spiritual health in and through our own lives, families, and church life.

Pastor Doug

Pastor Doug

The Secrets to Church Growth... Really! by Carl Ellis

The first secret to church growth is that we, the pastors and members of small, medium, and large churches need to stop rationalizing our failure to grow and our inability to attract members. For too long we have the misconception that mega churches (such as Church of the Resurrection, Willow Creek, and others) grow because they have a huge budget and they have big dollars to advertise. The truth is the mega churches grow because their members are encouraged to invite family, friends, neighbors, and

acquaintances to attend worship. And on average, 66% of the membership that attend those mega churches are inviting family, friends, neighbors and acquaintances to join them in worship. Church statistics show around 75% of people visit and then join a church because they were invited by someone they know besides the pastor.

The real secret is that it takes all of us to grow the church. Not just the evangelism committee or one person who is outgoing, every member is an important part of reaching people for Christ

First and foremost, church growth, evangelism, and/or outreach begins with prayer. We prayerfully ask God to help us to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. We pray that God will help our church develop an effective ministry to help those in and outside the church.

Second, evangelism needs to be rooted in Scripture. As we grow and find strength in God's grace we are able to share the hope and grace of God's Son our Savior with those we come in contact with. Why do we invite people to church? We invite people to church because our churches offer the love of God which brings love and grace that cannot be found in any other place in our life.

Third, churches which are growing spiritually and numerically have a culture of inviting others to share in worship, Sunday school, and other church activities.

How do we get started?

First, “It takes us all... Becoming an Inviting Church” Webinar February 13th at 4:00 pm. Pastor Barry Dundas and members of Trinity United Methodist Church will present ways in which their congregation has developed a culture of inviting and welcoming. To register simply go to:

www.kswestumc.org/registrations/register/80

Second, we have an Evangelism Web Class beginning February 7th led by Pastor Troy Bowyers. Registration deadline is Thursday, February 3, 2011. This class can be taken by Certified Lay Ministers, Lay Speakers, local church leadership, pastors, evangelism committee chairs and members. For more information contact cellis@kwu.edu

Real LIFE groups

Real Life groups meet on **Wednesdays at 6:30 pm following F.A.S.T.** We meet in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage your participation. You are encouraged to join in the F.A.S.T. meal also. Learning and living out scripture; Intentional sharing; Real Life Groups are “sermon based,” using scripture passages from the previous Sunday's sermon with a question outline provided by the preaching pastor. Contact the office for more information 283-2150.

Connect, Serve, & Grow ~ ~ *By Roy Pumphrey, Minister of Ministries*

"We have everything we need to live a life that pleases God. It was all given to us by God's own power, when we learned that he had invited us to share in his wonderful goodness. God made great and marvelous promises, so that his nature would become part of us. Then we could escape our evil desires and the corrupt influences of this world. Do your best to improve your faith. You can do this by adding goodness, understanding, self-control, patience, devotion to God, concern for others, and love. If you keep growing in this way, it will show that what you know about our Lord Jesus Christ has made your lives useful and meaningful. But if you don't grow, you are like someone who is nearsighted or blind, and you have forgotten that your past sins are forgiven. My friends, you must do all you can to show that God has really chosen and selected you. If you keep on doing this, you won't stumble and fall." 2 Peter 1:3-10 (CEV)

As I write this January 2011 is quickly coming to an end. If you made New Year's Resolutions, how are you doing? If you didn't make a New Year's Resolution, are you a better person today than on January 1? In either case, have you stumbled or fallen?

When it comes to living a life that is pleasing to God, the Apostle Peter tells us that we have everything we need to live such a life. Indeed, God has given it to us. I like the way Peter puts it, "He invited us to share in his wonderful goodness." His "nature would become a part of us."

A mystery of our faith is that God does this all for us, while at the same time we must participate. As Peter instructs us in the passage above we are to "do [our] best to improve our faith." He goes on to tell us we can do this by adding to our lives, "goodness, understanding, self-control, patience, devotion to God, concern for others, and love." Furthermore, if we add these to our lives we will "escape evil desires and corrupt influences."

When we add these to our lives we demonstrate to others that Christ Jesus makes our lives "useful and meaningful." Moreover, if we do these our walk of faith will be consistent, full, and strong. We "won't stumble and fall."

MISSION MOMENTS ~ ~ *by Jay Anderson*

HOW TO MAKE CHURCHES GROW

Church growth in America has stagnated in the last fifty years. What can be done about it?

The Bible has some clues. Jesus took three years to train 12 men how to make disciples. We tend to be too impatient to do that. Paul gives good advice to Timothy when he says, "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. Timothy 2:2.

The current issue of Mission Frontiers magazine has some examples of what churches are doing about it. One model comes from Real Life Ministries which is "not based on a fixed core of knowledge. Instead, it uses a simple grid for helping believers learn where they are in the spiritual growth process, as well as where others are. This grid helps disciples see how to move people along in the spiritual growth process. Their model also emphasizes relationships: do life with people, learn where they are in their spiritual growth, and develop an individual plan to move each person forward."

Let me know if you would like to see a copy of this magazine.

Jay

Bazaar 2011 Set for November 5

Please mark this important date on your calendar now.

Bazaar Planning Session,

Wednesday, February 16 @ 1:30

Time to Plan and explore *New Ideas*. Looking forward to see what you have in mind. Everyone one is *welcome* to come we *need your input*.

The Bazaar Quilt "CROWN OF THORNS" is being quilted now at Eileen Wonder's house at 2209 N. Anderson on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Fridays 1pm to 3pm. We can always use your HELP. Help is always welcome. Please join us for stitching & fellowship.

Global Impact Celebration



Pray for Missions

Preparations, plans and projects are underway as the **Global Impact Celebration** is looming on the horizon-**Friday April 8-10, 2011**. We are honored to have missionaries spend their weekend with us, sharing their lives, telling about their work, and showing how God is at work through them. We are in need of homes for them to stay while they are with us. We are also needing volunteers to provide transportation to and from the Wichita airport. If you can help us out, please call Carolyn Schroeder 283-7345. ~Be sure and read the insert on GIC.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
REGULAR HAPPENINGS**

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



70 Years of Marriage

Help Woody and Maxine Cannon celebrate their 70th Anniversary on Wednesday, February 2nd by sending a card to them at 125 SE 6th, Newton, KS 67114.



Church Newsletter goes Online

The church newsletter will now be distributed via e-mail and available at the church website at

http://www.firstchurchnewton.org/news_and_events/newsletters/

beginning in March. The February Newsletter will be available on the church website in February. If you do not have an e-mail address the Newsletter will be placed in your church mailbox. If you do not have a church mailbox contact the church office. The Newsletter will continue to be mailed to those who are not able to come to the church and do not have an e-mail address.



Please read the insert in the newsletter on the GIC Celebration.