

Volume 139—Issue 3

March 2011

# The Voice

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Coming in April

## Global Impact Celebration April 8, 9, and 10.

Jesus gave His disciples a clear command in Acts 1:8 when He said,  
“you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and  
in all Judea and Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth.”

Who should attend?  
The entire congregation! !

## God's Plan: Our Mission



Inspiring•Inviting•  
Including•Instructing

First United Methodist Church  
Growing disciples to reach others for  
Christ

**“Remembering Christ and One Another  
During This Lenten Season”**

I have been preaching on the “one another” series for awhile now. Hopefully, we are beginning to realize how important community is in the eyes of God. Community was really His idea and we are blessed as we find our place in the body of Christ. We have many opportunities to love one another and when we “bear one another’s burdens” we are fulfilling the law of Christ.

The month of March includes the beginning of the Lenten season. It will be good to remember and celebrate together what Christ has done for us as our sin bearer and burden bearer. He took our sins when He died on the cross and He intercedes for us now before our Father’s throne. He hears our prayers. He takes our burdens and releases us from our heavy loads.

We are also blessed to have brothers and sisters in the body of Christ to love and who love us. We often talk about “brothers and sisters” in Christ but we may not really stop to think about what it means to be a family in Christ. I remember hearing a story about two brothers who were walking together one day. The younger brother became tired so he asked the older brother to carry him. The older boy scooped his brother up in his arms and began to carry him. As he walked a neighbor chuckled and said, “Wow, he must be heavy.” The older boy replied, “He’s not heavy, he’s my brother.”

It’s a cute story but let’s be realistic—the younger boy would have weighed exactly the same if he hadn’t been a brother to the older boy. But because he is family, the load seems much lighter. Our burdens really do seem lighter to us if we nurture our relationship with Christ and with one another in His body.

We are reminded again during the Lenten season how important we are to Him and how much He has done for us. We are also reminded of how important we are to one another. It is a real joy to be a part of the family of God and to share life together.

*Pastor Doug*

Pastor Doug

**March 13, the Gideon's** will speak briefly about their ministry and will be at the doors for a donations to the Gideon’s at the end of each service.

**Cub Scout Pack 111 was established in 1956  
at First United Methodist Church.**

The Pack recently welcomed Mary Smith as their new Cub Master. With summer coming on, Smith has encouraged the Cub Scouts to be more mindful of ways to help other people which are part of the Cub Scout Promise. Pack 111 has started collecting aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Wichita. RMH is a home away from home for families who need a place to stay while their children are in the hospital. When the tabs are cashed in, the funds go to help offset the operating expenses occurred by the house.

The Pack thought it would be a good idea to ask the Newton community to join us in this effort. We would like to get an ice cream bucket full of tabs. When we meet this goal the Cubs will then present them to the Ronald McDonald House.

The tabs can be dropped by First United Methodist Church, 801 N. Main, on Monday nights between 7pm and 8:15pm when the scouts meet, or bring by the church office, 8:30 -4:30 Monday through Friday. If you have any question, please call Mary Smith at 316-253-0001. Thank you for your support.

**Thank you** Thanks to Dr. Doug for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit me in the hospital. Thanks to members of the church for calls and concerns. Rosa Lee Greer.

**Bazaar Workshop**

The first workshop for this year is Wednesday, March 16, at 1:30 pm. Please attend and join in the fun and fellowship as we work on projects.

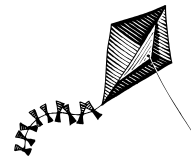


There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on March 9, at 6:30 p.m. Please plan to attend.

March Wind

March wind is a jolly fellow;  
He likes to joke and play.  
He turns umbrellas inside out  
And blows men's hats away.

He calls the pussy willows  
And whispers in each ear,  
"Wake up you lazy little seeds;  
Don't you know that spring is here?"



"He asked them, 'Who do people say I am?'" Mark 8:27b (NIV)

"Do you love me?" John 21:15,16,17 (NIV)

March 9<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday. This marks the beginning of the season of Lent. In the Church Year, Lent is a time of preparation for the observance of Holy Week during which we remember the triumphal entry, teaching, arrest, trial, crucifixion and death of Jesus. The preparation includes reflection on the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf, his teaching and example, and our commitment to follow him.

As you reflect on this during the forty days of Lent the question for those who are not following Christ is who do you say Jesus is. For those of us who answered that question by saying he is the Messiah, the question we need to answer is the one Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?"

The key issue of being a follower of Christ is not so much about what we believe, but rather what kind of relationship do we have with Jesus. Do we love him? The three great virtues of the those who follow Christ are faith, hope and love. The Apostle Paul tells us that the greatest of these is love.

Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commands."<sup>1</sup> He also said, "everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."<sup>2</sup> And, he said, ""Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" ; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself.""<sup>3</sup> Further, Jesus, the Apostle Peter, the Apostle John, and the Apostle Paul said, "Love one another."<sup>4</sup>

So this season of Lent in addition to considering a fast to prepare yourself for Holy Week, consider putting on love<sup>5</sup>, living sacrificially for others. After all, that is what Christ did for us.

<sup>1</sup> John 14:15 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> John 13:35 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> Luke 10:27

<sup>4</sup> John 13:34, (NIV) 1 Peter 3:8, 1 John 4:7; Romans 13:8 <sup>5</sup> Colossians 3:14

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## **MISSION MOMENTS ~~~by Jay Anderson**

### **BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH "OPERATION WORLD"**

Here is a book that includes information about every country in the world, about size of the country and population, economics, politics, but especially about religion and how to pray for the Christians in each country.

If you pray for a different country each day it will take you a year to cover all the nations. What a better way to get acquainted with our world.

Keep the book near your television, newspaper, or computer so that when news comes of major events in a far-off land, you can find out the spiritual dimensions of the events and pray for the country and its Christians.

Read a small section at family time (meals, devotions, while travelling) and pray for the country of the day. There is a map for each country so you can know where it is, a great geography lesson!

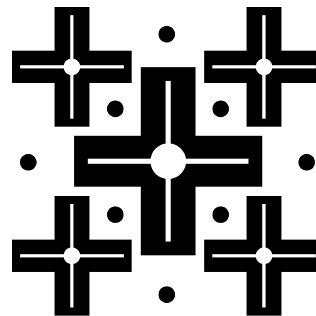
I have some copies of the book for \$10.00 that I got at discount.

Let me know if you want one. I will also put one copy in our church library. I also have a DVD-ROM of the book so I can print off a copy of the information on any country. Notice the new map of the world on the mission board near the office. It has the latest mission information.

### **Five Greek Crosses—**

The Greek cross has four arms or equal length.

The five crosses grouped together is an appropriate symbol for lent because they represent the wounds of Christ (hands, feet and side.)



### **Spring Clothing Exchange**

**When you think about spring, check your closet and see if you have more clothes than you need. Clothing exchange will be Friday, April 1, 2-6 pm and on Saturday, April 2, 9– 2pm.**

Bring those pieces of clothing hanging in your closet (or cedar chest) that you haven't worn, don't like, doesn't fit etc. Let someone that does like it and whom it does fit take it home. The clothing needs to be clean and not need repairs. Men's, women's, and children's clothing are welcome. If you have questions contact Evelyn Mathews at 283-2453.

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**We're on the Web**

**[www.FirstChurchNewton.org](http://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



**Global Impact  
Celebration Schedule**

**God's Plan: Our Mission  
2011 Global Impact Celebration-FUMC  
Friday, April 8-Sunday April 10**

A CHANCE TO GET UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH MISSIONARIES TO HEAR  
WHAT GOD IS DOING HERE IN KANSAS AND AROUND THE WORLD!!!!

**Friday, April 8, 2011**

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Kick Off –All Church Dinner  
7:00 - 7:15 p.m. Worship  
7:15 - 8:30 p.m. Kick Off Celebration Service  
Keynote Speaker – Rev. Dennis Wallace  
Missionary Panel Forum- Rev. Roger Wright  
9:00 pm - Youth Pizza Party

**Saturday, April 9, 2011**

9:00 - 10:00 All Church Brunch  
10:15- 11:15 Break Out Sessions  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Afternoon of Kindness  
(Intergenerational Work Teams)  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. International Potluck Dinner  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m Break Out Sessions

**Sunday, April 10, 2011**

9:30 - 10:15 Sunday School Classes with guest missionaries  
10:00 - 10:30 Coffee Fellowship  
10:30- 12:00 Combined Church Service-Dr. Doug Tofteland & Rev. Michael Mozley  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. All Church Dinner  
1:00 - 1:45 p.m. Closing Worship Service- Rev. Jim Ramsay & Rev. Roger Wright