

The Voice

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Summer in July



Ahh ... Summer!



July 3-August 14
★ **9:00 am Adult Sunday School**
★ **10:00 am Worship**
★ **10:00 am Kids' J.A.M.**



Ice Cream Social
July 31
Games at 5:30 pm
Ice Cream at 6:30 pm
Military Park

The Photographer will be here
Church Directory



August 12 and 13.

September 6, 7, and 8.

See page 4 for more



Finding a Church With Real Life!

I received this email from our DS Rick Saylor recently. I thought it was well worth passing on to everyone connected with FUMC.

The challenge is for all of us in the body of Christ. It is an encouragement to express humility, gentleness, and love in our relationships with one another. It's a call to sharing "real life" with one another. I would describe this authentic relating with one another.

Enjoy reading it and I look forward to seeing all of you soon after my vacation draws to a close.

Pastor Doug

♦ "My life shall be a real life, being wholly full of Thee."

St. Augustine from "Confessions"

♦ "The world is full of phonies."

Holden Caulfield from "The Catcher in the Rye"

Historically in our culture people turned to St. Augustine to read about a life well-examined and well-lived. Then at some point Holden Caulfield became a more popular source for meaningful introspection and living. It is an irony of our time that St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, is a real person while Holden Caulfield is the fictional creation of J.D. Salinger. "So it goes," to borrow from Kurt Vonnegut.

♦ But the irony is deeper than that. For many people today, church is the last place they look for truth, beauty and meaning. There are many reasons for that. We could debate why people don't seek the church as a source for what is "really real" in life. I bet we would have substantial data to support both our contentions for why this is so and we would both be right for the most part.

♦ However interesting that would be, I don't believe it would do anything other than further bemoan the church's loss of influence.

♦ What if we instead called people to a "real life," as St Augustine sees it? What might people need to experience in church for that to happen? Here are some helpful questions for such a call.

♦ When people enter our churches do they experience hope? Do they sense the possibility of a new and different life? In biblical language: Do they get a glimpse of the "holy city"? Do they get an inkling of what God has intended all along for creation? Do they experience in worship grace and beauty, finding themselves drawn into the very life of Jesus? Does this worship gladden their hearts? Does it open their eyes to see God's action in the world? At the exchange of "the peace" or at "coffee hour," do they sense among us real humility, gentleness and love?

♦ Regardless of size or shape, every church can faithfully address those ques-

tions. Our common life on Sundays

shaped by how we intentionally respond to those questions.

When churches do so, a buzz begins among members and visitors alike, something that moves spontaneously through our lives and out into others'. It's grounded in a passion about who we are as a local outpost of the body of Christ.

♦ Holden Caulfield was right at least in his contention that "the world is full of phonies." Maybe not full, but full enough that people today take a much more cynical stance to their lives. They are turned away by what they sense as hypocrisy in church. And we Christians bear our share in causing this.

♦ But I believe people still long for truth, beauty and meaning -- lives full of the really real, lives wholly full of God. What would it look like to shape our common life on Sunday to reflect such a real life? The answer will make all the difference in the world to people we have yet to meet.

Written by Scott Benhase who is the Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Georgia

Celebrating our 45th Bazaar Saturday, November 5, 2011

We want to make our 45th Bazaar extra special and we need your input and your participation.

Recipes for our "*COOKIE COOKBOOK*" are needed and should be in by **August 1st** You can get your recipes to Eleanor or email her eleanorschirer@att.net or email recipes to the church

info@firstchurchnewton.org

We appreciate your participation. We hope to have some of these cookies for sale at the Bazaar and have samples of your very special ones. We appreciate your participation.

July Workshop will be Wednesday, July 20th, at 1:30. Many projects to finish and some to begin. Come & enjoy the fellowship knowing our work helps support many mission programs local & afar. We will have a list of mission programs so you know who we have supported from our Bazaar 2010 funds and for you to know how important our Bazaar really is.

THE BLING BLING GALS NEEDS JEWELRY.

Encourage your friends and relatives to give their unwanted Jewelry to our worthwhile cause, tell them about our mission programs. Let them know how we use our funds for missions. Every donation makes a difference in someone's life.

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

"¹As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it."
2 Corinthians 6:1 (NLT)

In February, in response to the annual planning day which had taken place in January, the Church Council created a task force to examine ways to increase the number of children, youth and families in the FUMC community and then make a recommendation. Task force members included Linda Budde, Carrie Holler, Lea Ann Reber, myself, and for part of the time Barry Fulmer and Bev Grimm. The task force also met with Pastor Tofteland on two occasions. A report and recommendation was presented to the Church Council at its June meeting.

At its core the recommendation is for us to make friends with our neighbors, acquaintances, and strangers. It is a call for us to live missionally. The Father sent his Son, Jesus, on a mission to live among people separated from him. So, Jesus moved into the neighborhood to re-establish the relationship between God and humankind. (John 1:14, *The Message*) Likewise, we are sent into our neighborhoods to those who are estranged from God. (See John 17:18) In our neighborhoods we are to intentionally develop friendships with those we meet. Just as Jesus did. (See Matthew 11:19).

Through friendships, those who are presently distant and even at odds of following Jesus will be able to see the difference in our lives brought about by Christ living in us. (See Colossians 1:27) This is how they will meet Jesus and he can call them to follow him, too. This is how more children, youth, will become a part of the FUMC community.

MISSION MOMENTS ~ ~ *by Jay Anderson*

"The times they are a changing" was a popular song some years ago (shows my age). This is true of the United Methodist Church; although the purpose of the church is the same, "to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The first change is that of our Kansas West Conference which has been changed from being part of an Episcopal area with the Kansas East Conference with Bishop Scott Jones, to one area that now includes Nebraska with Kansas East and Kansas West with one bishop who would have to hold three annual conference sessions. The proposed change would make all three conferences into one conference with one annual conference session instead of three.

Another change is proposed for the world wide United Methodist Church. There would still be one General Conference to legislate for the whole church every four years, but the issues they would deal with would be limited to doctrinal and ordination matters and other legal issues that would affect the whole church. The change would be for the world to be divided into four areas (Europe, Asia, Africa and the United States) with delegates from their countries coming together every four years to legislate matters that only affect their area of the world.

Those same delegates would also attend the General Conference every four years. Forty years ago only 10 percent of the delegates came from outside the U.S. Today 40 percent of the delegates are from overseas. They now want a bigger voice in their own affairs. The next General Conference in 2012 will begin to deal with this issue. We wish them well!

Pastor Doug on vacation the next three Sundays



Next Sunday, July 3, the youth will be leading the service and sharing about their mission trip to South Dakota. The combined worship service will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 10, Rev. Don Swender, retired United Methodist pastor will be preaching.

Sunday, July 17, Roy Pumphrey will bring the morning message.

Pastor Doug will return from his vacation on Wednesday, July 20. In case of an emergency you may call Rev. Jay Anderson.

Newsletter on Line

We would like comments about the newsletter being on line. You may put your comments on the attendance sheet or email the church office. We want the pros or cons. If you are not receiving the newsletter please let the church office know.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Return Service Requested

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

**Church
Directory**



Sign-up sheets for having photos taken for our new pictorial directory will be available before and after church services on July 10, 17, 24, and 31. You may also call the church office, 283-2150. Anyone not signed up before August 1st will be contacted by Olan Mills—caller ID will display "pictorial directory" and the Area

Code 423.

