

# The Voice

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# September

# Fantastic Fall

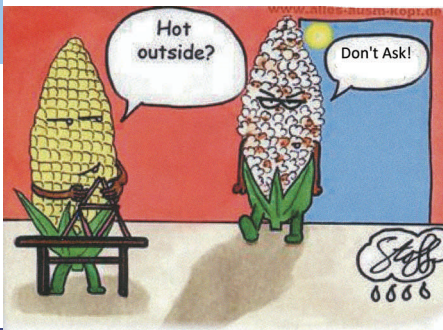
## at FUMC



**F.A.S.T. BEGINS**  
*September 7 @ 5:30*



Confirmation Class Begins  
Sept. 14 @ 6:00 P.M.



## UMW Tea

September 18



@2:00 P.M.

**September will be better!**

## **“Be An Encourager”**

September newsletter already....

September is the beginning of fall church activities. I wonder how many people need encouragement in some way or another as we make another transition? I do not think encouragement is tagged to any particular season but it usually does accompany new beginnings.

It's a good reminder for all of us to be an encourager to someone on a regular basis. Encouragement is important business. It deserves careful attention. It requires an intentional effort. Research suggests that people need six positive interactions to offset one negative interaction.

It is very easy to become more pessimistic than optimistic in our interrelationships. We should be very careful so we do not become more discouraging than encouraging. Encouragement is vital for life and for relationships. We are always ready for more because it is what cheers us on in our daily lives.

I hope that we will all focus more on being encouraging than discouraging as our fall worship, fellowship, and service opportunities begin.


Pastor Rod Cooper describes five qualities of an encourager...

1. Encouragers give freely of their resources. If you want to encourage someone, do something tangible for them.
2. Encouragers accept you where you are. They have a wonderful ability to let the past be the past and to start fresh right where you are.
3. Encouragers get excited about the progress of others.
4. Encouragers meet the current need.
5. Encouragers give others a second chance.

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day appearing.”

(Hebrews 10:25 NIV)

Shalom,

  
Pastor Doug

## **New BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY**

Since most of our readers are fiction lovers the following fiction books are now in the library.

Five books in the series, **Abram's Daughters**, by Beverly Lewis. This series unveils the layers of deeply rooted Amish traditions that sometimes lead to distressing results.

*Two books by Jennifer Erin Valent:*

**Cottonwood Whispers** is about a 17 year old girl in 1936 who experiences a tragedy when a friend is hit by a car and of the evil that ordinary humans are capable of and also of the beauty of sacrifice and the power of faith.

**Fireflies in December** tells the story of the problems of racial differences in a southern Virginia town through the experience of two young girls.

Nancy Rue and Stephen Arterburn have written **Healing Sands**, a story of a crime, blame, and the healing that only God can give.

*Two books by Karen Kingsbury:*

**A Time to Embrace** and **This Side of Heaven**, both dealing with the resiliency of love, the power of commitment, and the amazing faithfulness of God.

*Three biographical books:*

**Heaven is for Real**, written by the father of a young boy who left his body during surgery and tells of visiting heaven and stories told to him by people he met there whom he had never met in his life. A must read for anyone who doubts and for those who believe.

**Which None Can Shut**, by Reema Goode is about a Christian family working in a closed Middle Eastern country where God is reaching Muslims with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Edward Grinnan, the Editor in Chief of **Guideposts Magazine** has shared his life story, along with other true stories of hope and inspiration in **The Promise of Hope**. This book is a memorial for Marylee Brainard by the UMW.

*Three new DVDs:*

Two Veggie Tales, **The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything**, and **The Ultimate Silly Song Countdown**.

**Enough**, by Adam Hamilton, is about discovering joy through simplicity and generosity.

### **District Vital Congregational Planning Training Event, Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 PM**

We are hosting this event for area UM Churches. This training is for all Pastors, Staff/Pastor-Relations Chairs and the committee, all Church Council members. You are encouraged to be present, to learn more about the “Vital Congregations” planning and goal setting process. For more information go to [UMVitalCongregations.org](http://UMVitalCongregations.org) **We need people to volunteer to bring cookies for this event.**

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

"And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas." Acts 16:6-8 (ESV)

The verses above intrigue me. First, Paul and his friends were on a mission for God. God had appointed Paul as The Missionary to The Gentiles. He was going about doing what he had been called and set apart to do. Second, it tells us that how to go about fulfilling a mission and calling does not come all at once. Third, in order to fulfill a mission and calling one must act, doing what is thought to be best and is on mission.

Just before what we read in the passage above we know that Paul and his companions were in Derbe, Lystra, and Iconium. They wanted to go to Asia next. Eugene Peterson in *The Message* puts it this way, "their plan was to turn west into Asia province." That didn't work out, so they went to Mysia. Then they planned to go to Bithynia, but that didn't work out. But, what it does tell us they knew they had a mission and calling so they acted on it. When their plans were blocked, they didn't stop. They tried something else.

Another lesson from this passage is, when we act on what God calls us to do He is with us. Paul and his companions finally end up in Troas. I find it interesting that the Holy Spirit didn't simply tell them to go to Troas when they set out from Derbe, Lystra, and Iconium. Rather Paul and his friends made plans—and making plans takes work and even investment—and things didn't work out. The Holy Spirit simply did not allow them to proceed. We don't know how that message was conveyed. Maybe a bridge collapsed or they missed the train, but whatever it was, it was clear to them.

Along their way of fulfilling mission and calling, the Holy Spirit did not give explicit instructions and directions. Rather, when they were at Mysia and their way was blocked for going to Bithynia, they simply turned the another direction and ended up in Troas. They didn't go against the Holy Spirit, they didn't turn back, they made new plans to fulfill their mission and calling.

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

### **MISSIONS MEANS REACHING BEYOND MYSELF**

The scripture this morning was Philippians 3:13-14: "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." The comment in the Interpreter's Bible was, "...the only perfection possible to a Christian is to be always striving toward something better. To stand still, in the fancy that one has now reached the goal, is only stagnation, and proves that one is not yet truly a servant of Christ.

A prime example of someone always striving forward is Joyce Chellis, a nurse for years in the States, then about 15 years as a nurse in Kazakhstan, Now, because of visa problems in Kazakstan, she is headed for her next nursing career in India.

In an email she sent yesterday she writes, "I've spent the past few days pondering how in the world I can share with you even a glimpse of India...India to me was simply overwhelming...a great limping giant teeming with humanity and filled with sight, sounds, and smells (some wonderful, some horrifying) the likes of which I've never experienced before. I found myself overcome with sorrow at the poverty, ignorance, sickness, and injustice that some times surrounded me...

then in the next moment I would get a glimpse of God's love and mercy working through some of the most humble dedicated Christ followers I've ever met...God is pouring out His Spirit over the darkness of Bihar...I cannot adequately explain my excitement over being given the opportunity to join Jesus in His mission in this place."

We are never too old but that God can use us in His service. When I retired from the active ministry at age 66, I heard God say to me, "The best is yet to be." When I asked Him what He wanted me to do He just said MISSIONS, which is what I have been trying to do for the last 14 years that we have lived here in Newton. Now that I am 80 I asked God this morning, "Am I near the end?" He said, "Not yet. I have more for you to do." So we press on to the goal.

### **BAZAAR 2011**

Coming soon Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>

We are planning and working to be ready.....are you planning to help us with your contributions and participation?? We need your help to meet our goal to fund our Mission giving for 2012. We need **JEWELRY** that is not being worn by you.... needed no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>. Also we need canning jars & jelly jars. We will have a **USED NOOK** corner for Used Books, Games, Puzzles and Christmas Decor .....that are taking up room in your closets that you would like to clean out in late Oct. as we don't have room until then. – Good condition only PLEASE. We appreciate all your HELP. THANK YOU!

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**We're on the Web**

**www.FirstChurchNewton.org**

*This newsletter has been prayerfully prepared for:*

Office Hours: M-T, 8:30 am-4:00 pm  
Friday 8:30 am—12:00 pm

- Dr. Doug Tofteland, Lead Pastor
- Jay Anderson, Missions Pastor
- Roy Pumphrey, Executive Minister
- Roxie Truan, Administrative Assistant
- Beverly Stigge, Choir Director
- Barry Fulmer, Praise Team Leader
- Karen Kaufman, Organist
- Mary Beth Davies, Organist
- David Portlock, Custodian



**Keep a Roof Overhead—Dome Repair Fund**

The church dome needs major repair. The Board of Trustees and Church Council approved getting it repaired. The cost is \$30,000.00. Please make a pledge to this fund to be paid by April 1, 2012. Pledges and donations may be turned in to the Church Office at anytime. Please note that the donation or pledge is for the Dome Repair Fund. Pledge cards are available from the

Church Office. Repair will begin once the funds are available.



**Beginning September 5**, office hours will be Monday thru Thursday 8:30-12:00 pm and 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Friday 8:30 –12:00 pm.

**Come One Come All** to share in the joy of singing to the Lord during 9:00 am worship. Please join others in singing. Choir rehearsal begins, Wednesday, August 31, 7:30— 8:30 pm. Bev Stigge 283-0847.



**2011 Crop Walk**

Crop Walk will be Sunday, September 25, starting at First Christian Church, 102 E. First at 2:00 pm. Registration begins 1:15 pm. Last year there were 125 walkers who raised \$15,866.00. The goal for 2011 is 150 walkers to raise \$16,000. If you would like to walk please see Ray Truan or call at 283-4872. The Crop raises funds to confront local and world hunger.

