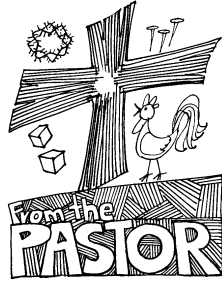


Dear Partners in Ministry:

On Saturday last week fifteen of us met with Rev. Jack Seville, Associate Minister for the Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC, to look into the future. Our first task was to identify the greatest challenge facing us in the years ahead. The problem was that "us" was left very open ended. Some thought it was a cosmic, worldwide "us" and others thought because it was church, the "us" was St. Philip's. Once we identified the challenge, the question was how are we equipped to meet the challenge and how does this relate to our church. Finally, the question was, "Where will we be in 15 years?"



After lunch we heard some statistics about the St. Louis UCC churches and about St. Philip's including mission giving, attendance and membership. One of the biggest surprises for us was that St. Philip's is a big church when compared to all protestant churches. Any Protestant church with a worship attendance of over 100 is considered "big". We looked at what was most important for us to do and be as a church and we asked if there were things that took up time and energy that didn't produce fruit. Never did we draw up lists of what to do in the future or suggest specific solutions to the challenge. We were not to problem solve, but to stand back and look before we make decisions.

Do you remember in scripture when Jesus was asked a question and he took time and kind of drew in the sand before he answered? Well, I think that was the purpose of the day. We are taking time and drawing in the sand while we consider how St. Philip's will look in 15 years. Many 50 year old churches are not doing well. We must consider how St. Philip's can move into the next 50 years with faithfulness and mission. The conversation will continue and we ask God's blessing on our deliberations.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Sue

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Joint Neighborhood Ministry thanks you for your donation to help those who are hungry, who need help with a utility payment, who need clothing for their children, and who have health concerns that are great and urgent. Last year at this time, JNM was beginning a new Deaconess Parish Nurse Program through a grant from Missouri Foundation for Health. This year, our Parish Nurse Colleen has a weekly exercise class, diabetes support groups and information groups, cooking classes and works with individuals and families to help with their health concerns. Joint Neighborhood Ministry is direct aid to some of the poorest on the city's Southside. Your contribution is helping make a difference.



Again, we sincerely appreciate and thank you for your kindness. If you have questions about our programs or would like information about our Volunteer Program, please contact us at 314-771-2987.

Sincerely,
(signed) Joan Hensley, Executive Director
Donation amount \$200.00

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Greetings in Christ,

We wish to express our gratitude to you for what you have done. Your actions speak volumes of God's love to those in need. Your thoughtfulness will help to alleviate some of the necessities needed by our families.

Thank you never seems adequate for what you have done, but for lack of a better way of saying it, THANK YOU!

In God's Grace,
(signed) Johnniest B. Henry
St. John's Community Ministries

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Friends in Christ,
"No one hears the cries of the poor, or the sound of a wooden bell." Haitian proverb

Thank you for being among the compassionate who have heard the cries of our sisters and brothers in Haiti and have responded with a generous donation to the United Church of Christ Haiti Earthquake Relief fund. We recorded your gift of \$288.00 on 3/5/2010 as per your request.

The United Church of Christ is using Haiti Earthquake relief funds to support the relief efforts of several partners including Church World Service, ACT Alliance and Global Ministries.

UCC supported efforts include distribution of water, food packages, blankets, hygiene and baby kits and medicines and medical supplies. We are also engaged in construction of temporary water systems and latrines.

Haiti Earthquake relief funds will also be utilized in the months and years to come, as we accompany our Haitian sisters and brothers on the long, long journey of recovery, restoration and renewal.

Thank you for making the journey possible.

Sincerely,

(signed) Susan M. Sanders, One Great Hour of Sharing Administrator

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We want to thank those who sent cards and held us in their thoughts and prayers during our time of sorrow.

Sincerely,

Jane Eason and family

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Trivia Thank Yous

Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Trivia Weekend. Thank to everyone who:

- Bought a table and played
- Helped set up and clean up
- Donated gift cards
- Donated prizes
- Soda donation (Sheltons)

Kitchen help
Raffle sellers
Auction workers
Runners

Special thanks to youth who helped:

Scott Karcher
Madeline Williamson

Apologies to anyone I may have missed.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Women's Fellowship Book Sale was a huge success. We want to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped and those who donated books. The left over paperback books went to the VA Hospital at JB. The Readers' Digest Condensed books went to the Engelhardts, (who took them to a Senior Center in SE Missouri). The children's books were purchased by a teacher who Terri Karcher works with.

The hardback books went to Macy's at West County for their Crisis Nursery Book Sale in the spring.

Please remember to save your books for our next sale in February 2011. Call Janet Remmers if you need to get rid of them and she will store them.

The proceeds will greatly help us with your mission projects this year.

Again, THANK YOU, THANK YOU !!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thanks to all who supplied the usual wonderful meal for Lydia's House women and their children. They really appreciate the abundance and variety and especially look forward to the times when St. Philip's is the church bringing the food.

Food for the last dinner was prepared by Frances Kalbfleish, Hilda Leonard, Joyce Brand, Pat Siewing, Sue Leary, Joan Schumacher, JoAnn Leber, Lois Decker, Kathy Shelton, Virginia Hladnick, Janet Remmers, Mary Lou Farrow and Dorothea Holdener, Ellen Disseler, Ardelle Dischinger, and Nancy Krenning. Thanks again, ladies!

The next time we provide community meal food is Wednesday, April 7th. Check the sign up sheet on the bulletin board for items still needed.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Dear Sandy,
Thanks to you and the wonderful group of ladies you recruited, the mailing for our Conference Annual Gathering was taken to the post office today. Thank you again for gathering the ladies and asking them to come in and help out. Your time is truly appreciated! Please let the others know how grateful I am for their assistance on Monday. Take care.
(signed) Renee G. Cordes, Administrative Assistant
Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC

(The wonderful group of ladies were Janet Remmers, Dorothea Holdener, Nancy Krenning, and friends of St. Philip's, Mary Dykstra and Fanny Seville.)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Our shut-in Walt Miller, and Tom Nottelmann who will have surgery this week (Thursday).

50+ GROUP

The April activity for the 50+ Group will be lunch at Hodak's Restaurant on Saturday, April 17th. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. All are welcome to join them.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will have a potluck salad lunch at 12 noon on Tuesday, April 20th and be entertained by the singing egg lady at 1 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We hope you will join them for a fun afternoon.

ST. PHILIP'S WOMEN'S RETREAT

It hardly seems possible that this will be our fourth retreat! The last three have been a lot of fun but also very meaningful. Join us this year as we gather to enjoy fellowship, food and fun and worship.

The date of the retreat is April 17th at Camp Fenwick. We'll start at 9:00 a.m. with coffee, tea, and rolls and then move on to a Bible study, group activities, lunch, a craft – a whole array of things to enjoy – and close by 3:00 p.m. with worship and communion.

There is an informational sheet on the bulletin board as well as driving directions. Please sign up by April 11th. All women are welcome.

EAT OUT FUNDRAISERS

Thanks to everyone who participated in our last two restaurant fundraisers. Not only did we enjoy good food and fellowship but we raised money for St. Philip's as well. We received \$100 from Hardee's and \$61.02 from O'Leary's. Thank you all. It was fun and effortless.

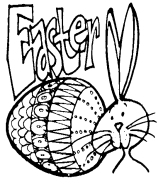
The next eating out fundraiser will be at Sweet Tomatoes on Watson Road from 5 to 8 p.m. on April 21. As with all such fundraisers, you will need to present a flier, which will be available at church several weeks before the event. These fliers are not to be given out on the restaurant property and no coupons may be used. See you there!

BULLETIN BOARD

Be sure to check the bulletin board each week after worship to see what is going on in the near future and also to sign-up for liturgist, children's time and the welcoming team and any event you might want to attend. It helps the committees a lot when they know how many to plan on, etc.



EASTER EGG HUNT



This year's Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 3rd. We need wrapped candy to put in the Easter Eggs for that day. We have plenty of plastic eggs so we don't need any of those – just the candy to put inside the eggs.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 1st – Maundy Thursday Service – 7 p.m.
Friday, April 2nd – Good Friday Service – 12 noon
Saturday, April 3rd – Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m.
Sunday, April 4th – Early Service 8 a.m.
Easter breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

CAMP SUNDAY

This year's Camp Sunday will be held on Sunday, April 25th. If you attended camp at any time and have a t-shirt please wear it that Sunday and everyone should come dressed in camping attire.

BREAKFAST FOODS FOR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will be collecting breakfast foods in April for our food drive. Please bring boxes of cereal, pancake mixes, syrup, bread mixes (banana, cranberry, etc.) boxed and canned fruit and anything else you like for breakfast that won't spoil. Thank you very much for all your past donations and thank you in advance for the breakfast goodies !!

MONTHLY LUNCH

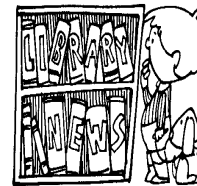


We continue to serve lunch at noon on the second Wednesday of each month to all who would like to join us. We welcome anyone who has not eaten with us before as well as repeat eaters! The April lunch will be at church. Just let Virginia or Sandy know if you can

come.

HABITAT

Outreach hopes everyone is putting coins and the occasional dollar bill into your Habitat Banks. If you still need a bank, they are on the table in the gathering space. Also, there are Habitat envelopes in the pews, if you don't want to fill a bank. Our Habitat Workday is set for Saturday, May 15th. It will be in a cooler season this year, so let's try to have a good turnout. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board. The children will be collecting the banks and envelopes during the children's time the Sunday after Easter, April 11th.



LIBRARY NEWS

Several new books have been donated to the library. You might want to check them out:
The Be (Happy) Attitudes by Robert Schuller
Putting Your Faith Into Action Today! By Robert Schuller
A Child's First Bible by Sandol Stoddard

SAVE THE DATE

For the first time ever, St. Philip's will host the annual spring gathering of the St. Louis Association. We expect about 125 attendees from churches across the entire St. Louis area so it will be a good time to spotlight our church. As the time approaches, you'll hear more about plans for the day. Hopefully you'll be able to come and (surprise, surprise!) help in some way.

EVENTS AT ST. PAUL'S UCC

St. Louis Association Women will have its annual spring gathering at St. Paul's UCC in Oakville on Thursday, April 22. You'll hear about their various missions including trips, crafts, and an adult community outreach. Lunch will be served and

\$10.00 covers the entire day including lunch. There is information on the bulletin board. Please sign by April 11. St. Paul's is in the area and carpooling will be provided.

NEW OUTREACH

April will mark the second month that a small group of St. Philip's ladies has served breakfast for the clients of Joint Neighborhood Ministry as they wait for the food pantry to open. The March breakfast consisted of orange juice, oatmeal with an assortment of toppings, bagels, coffee, tea, and cocoa. It was well received and we expect an even larger group of people as the word spreads. It allows them to get in out of the elements – otherwise they wait outside for several hours, regardless of the weather – as they wait their turn to receive a supply of food. You'll hear more about this if it becomes a regular event and it appears that it will.

SANDWICHES

We will not be making sandwiches in April. Plan on May 2nd to help.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

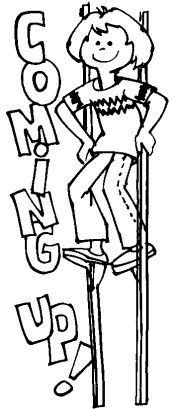
This year Vacation Bible School will be August 2-6. The theme is "Galactic Blast." Later, we will have a list of supplies that will be needed. However, in the meantime, if you have an old monitor or keyboard, call the office. We will be making a control panel(s). We probably will need 3 of each. This will be a fun and exciting week. Thank you for your help

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our spring congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 18th. This is a reminder to all committee chairpersons to have their yearly report into the office no later than Monday, April 12th so that Shirley can type them, etc.

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 1 | Maundy Thursday Communion Service 7 p.m. |
| April 2 | Good Friday Communion Service 12 noon |
| April 3 | Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m. |
| April 4 | Easter services 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
Breakfast 8:30 a.m. |
| April 5 | Church Council 7 p.m. |
| April 6 | Bell Choir 7 p.m. |
| April 7 | Choir 7 p.m.
Provide Lydia's Meal |
| April 11 | Birthday Sunday
Pizza Sale |
| April 12 | Roman's Bible Study 7 p.m. |
| April 13 | Bell Choir 7 p.m. |
| April 14 | Free Lunch noon
Choir 7 p.m. |
| April 17 | Women's Retreat 9 a.m.
50+ Group – Hodak's Restaurant |
| April 18 | Congregational Meeting
Pizza Sale
Pre Jr/Jr Youth to City Museum |
| April 19 | Bible Study 9 a.m.
Crier articles due
Roman's Bible Study 7 p.m. |
| April 20 | Women's Fellowship – Salad Lunch/Egg Lady
12 noon |
| April 21 | Outreach Ministry Team 10 a.m.
Fundraiser – Dinner at Sweet Tomatoes 5-8 p.m.
Choir 7 p.m. |
| April 25 | Camp Sunday
Pizza Sale (pick up pizzas) |
| April 26 | Bible Study 9 a.m.
Roman's Bible Study 7 p.m. |
| April 27 | Bell Choir 7 p.m. |
| April 28 | Choir 7 p.m. |



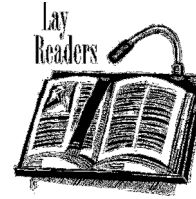
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1 April Schillinger
April 3 Ben Kotthoff
April 4 Carley Nickel
Tara Siewing
April 7 Steve Werner
April 8 Grace Williamson
April 9 Elvira Rebiegne
April 10 Judy Parkinson
Stan Parkinson
Bradley Knoll
April 13 Bryant Rohlfing
April 15 Alice Noland
April 18 Alyse Gordon
Kayla Gordon
April 23 Al Bowles
April 24 Steve Hladnick
April 26 Linda Haman
April 27 Lucy Vogt
April 28 Kate Kimker
Mary Darr
Helen Wright



LITURGISTS, USHERS, ACOLYTES AND CHILDREN'S TIME FOR APRIL

Liturgists



April 4 Sandy Stevenson
April 11 Lois Decker
April 18 Mike Shelton
April 25

Welcoming Teams

April 4
April 11
April 18 Joy Lopez
April 25

Children's Time

April 4
April 11
April 18
April 25



Acolytes



April 4 Scott Karcher
April 11 Ashley Kulich
April 18 Carley Nickel
April 25 Sarah Witte

TO MEET SUCH A MAN

Thanks to Janet Remmers for this.

I sat, with two friends, in the picture window of a quaint restaurant just off the corner of the town-square. The food and the company were both especially good that day. As we talked, my attention was drawn outside, across the street. There, walking into town, was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was carrying a well-worn sign that read, 'I will work for food.' My heart sank.

I brought him to the attention of my friends and noticed that others around us had stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief. We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind. We finished our meal and went our separate ways. I had errands to do and quickly set out to accomplish them. I glanced toward the town square, looking somewhat halfheartedly for the strange visitor. I was fearful, knowing that seeing him again would call some response.

I drove through town and saw nothing of him. I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car. Deep within me, the Spirit of God kept speaking to me: 'Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the square.' Then with hesitancy, I headed back into town. As I turned the squares third corner, I saw him. He was standing on the steps of the store front church, going through his sack. I stopped and looked; feeling both compelled to speak to him, yet wanting to drive on.

The empty parking space on the corner seemed to be a sign from God: an invitation to park. I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor. 'Looking for the pastor?' I asked.

'Not really,' he replied, 'just resting.'

'Have you eaten today?'

'Oh, I ate something early this morning.'

'Would you like to have lunch with me?'

'Do you have some work I could do for you?'

'No work,' I replied. 'I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to take you to lunch.'

'Sure,' he replied with a smile.

As he began to gather his things, I asked some surface questions.

'Where are you headed?'

'St. Louis.'

'Where are you from?'

'Oh, all over; mostly Florida.'

'How long have you been walking?'

'Fourteen years,' came the reply.

I knew I had met someone unusual. We sat across from each other in the same restaurant I had left earlier. His face was weathered slightly beyond his 38 years. His eyes were dark yet clear, and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling. He removed his jacket to reveal a bright red T-shirt that said, 'Jesus is The Never Ending Story.'

Then Daniel's story began to unfold. He had seen rough times early in life. He'd made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences. Fourteen years earlier, while back-packing across the country, he stopped on the beach in Daytona. He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment – a concert, he thought. He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert but revival services, and in those services he saw life more clearly. He gave his life over to God.

'Nothing's been the same since,' he said, 'I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking, and so I did, some 14 years now.'

'Ever think of stopping?' I asked.

'Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me but God has given me this calling. I give out Bibles, That's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads.'

I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless. He was on a mission and lived this way by choice. The question burned inside for a moment and then I asked: 'What's it like?'

'What?'

'To walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and to show your sign?'

'Oh, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone tossed a piece of half-eaten bread and made a gesture that certainly didn't make me feel welcome. But then it became humbling to realize that God was using me to touch lives and change people's concepts of other folks like me.'

My concept was changing, too. We finished our dessert and gathered his things. Just outside the door, he paused. He turned to me and said, 'Come Ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you. For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in.'

I felt as if we were on holy ground.

'Could you use another Bible?' I asked.

He said he preferred a certain translation. It traveled well and was not too heavy. It was also his person favorite. 'I've read through it 14 times,' he said.

'I'm not sure we've got one of those, but let's stop by our church and see.' I was able to find my new friend a Bible that would do well, and he seemed very grateful.

'Where are you headed from here?' I asked.

'Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon.'

'Are you hoping to hire on there for awhile?'

'No, I just figure I should go there. I figure someone under that star right there needs a Bible, so that's where I'm going next.'

He smiled, and the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission. I drove him back to the town-square where we'd met two hours earlier, and as we drove, it started raining. We parked and unloaded his things.

'Would you sign my autograph book?' he asked. 'I like to keep messages from folks I meet.'

I wrote in his little book that his commitment to his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong. And left him with a verse of scripture from Jeremiah, 'I know the plan I have for you, declared the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a future and a hope.'

'Thanks, man,' he said. 'I know we just met and we're really just strangers, but I love you.'

'I know,' I said, 'I love you, too.' 'The Lord is good.'

'Yes, He is. How long has it been since someone hugged you?' I asked.

'A long time,' he replied.

And so on the busy street corner in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced, and I felt deep inside that I had been changed. He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, 'See you in the New Jerusalem'

'I'll be there!' was my reply.

He began his journey again. He headed away with his sign dangling from his bed roll and pack of Bibles. He stopped, turned and said, 'When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?'

'You bet,' I shouted back, 'God bless.'

'God bless.' And that was the last I saw of him.

Late that evening as I left my office, the wind blew strong. The cold front had settled hard upon the town. I bundled up and hurried to my

car. As I sat back and reached for the emergency brake, I saw them...a pair of well-worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the handle. I picked them up and thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay warm that night without them.

Then I remembered his words: 'If you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?' Today his gloves lie on my desk in my office. They help me to see the world and its people in a new way, and they help me remember those two hours with my unique friend and to pray for his ministry. 'See you in the New Jerusalem,' he said. Yes, Daniel, I know I will....

'I shall pass this way but once. Therefore, any good that I can do or any kindness that I can show, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again.'

