



SOUTHEAST CIRCUIT RIDER

an edition of
The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 024015 | Vol. 152 | No. 14 | August 12, 2005

More Southeast District News



Welcome

District welcomes new pastors and families.



Across the District

Churches offer programs especially for children.



BBQ
Sept 16

Help Wanted

Nursery Worker
Musician

Page



Editor/Circulation:
Susan D. Jespersen
southeast@ecunet.org

Subscriptions may be purchased by sending a check for \$5.50/year (12 issues) made payable to the Southeast District.

David's Harp

Many years ago I was asked to give a title to my column in the church newsletter. I finally decided on "David's Harp." I'm not sure why the name, other than I wanted something with my name in the title and I remembered the Bible story about David playing a harp to bring calm to King Saul. The name has stuck and was affirmed when our oldest daughter's piano teacher had her learn and then play a song in worship entitled "Come Little David and Play Your Harp."

In the months ahead this part of the district newsletter will have a "Harp." Hopefully the thoughts expressed will do more than bring calm.

Mary joins with me in thanking you for the warm welcome you have extended. The warmth is more than the experience of the weather in Southeast Missouri. I'm sure that word, used most recently, was not 'warm' but HOT. You have surrounded us with your love, with words of encouragement, prayer and gifts of food. We have had the privilege of worshipping in churches across the district.

We know that we have only begun in our journey to worship with each church in the district. But in each place we have been warmly received. Sometimes the 'warm welcome' has heated up when the word spread through the congregation that the strangers in worship were the new district superintendent and his wife.

I do not plan to announce when I will be attending worship in a church. I want to experience what any new person might experience the first time she or he attended worship in a new place.



Hebrews 13:2 challenges us, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Bishop Schnase has challenged us to radical hospitality. In part that is how we welcome the 'stranger' in our midst.

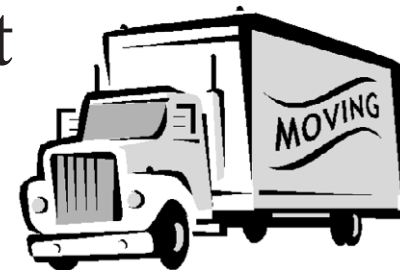
The directional signs a church has in a community, on the parking lot and in the building, the manner in which greeters welcome people, the openness of those in the pew to welcome the 'stranger' are all a part of hospitality. I look for all these things as I attend worship.

I know how easy it is to become comfortable with who I am, with the people I worship with and the place I always sit and not be sensitive to the 'stranger'. I am just waiting for someone to tell me that I am sitting in 'his or her pew'. And 'yes' I do have a response to the comment but I won't give it away.

As many of you know Southeast Missouri is a new area for me. I am looking forward to meeting more of you in the months ahead. I am excited about the many ministries that are happening on the local and district level. The recent Hispanic

(continued on page 8)

The District Office Is Moving!



Due to the demise of the heating / cooling system in the building that houses the District Office, the District Superintendent and staff must find a new home. The owners of the building served notice on July 27 that the office space must be vacated within 30 days. That date is August 26. We're moving--we know the time frame, but not the place we will call "home." The District Trustees are working on a solution. **Watch for additional information and an announcement about the new location on the Web and in your email.**

Annual District Picnic

All (retired & serving) Pastors & Families are invited.

Monday, August 15

Gathering Time: 6:00 p.m.
Dinnertime: 6:30 p.m.

Trinity UMC
in
Bloomfield

Bring a Dish to Share

As is our tradition, those new to our district are our guests. Others participating are asked to bring a dish to share. According to your last name, please bring a SALAD (A-I), VEGETABLE/POTATOES (J-R) or DESSERT (S-

Lay Speaker Training

Basic and Advanced Lay Speaker Training will be offered on September 24 at the Charleston UMC.

Additional information and registration forms are available on the Southeast District website www.sedistrictumc.org.



Staff Farewell and Welcome

The District Superintendency Committee is hosting a reception on Thursday, August 25, to say "farewell" to Lori Smith who leaves the district staff after seven years and to say "welcome" to Susan Jespersen who has joined our staff as the Administrative Assistant.

The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Grace United Methodist Church, 521 Caruthers, Cape Girardeau from 1:00 p.m. till 3:00 p.m.

Lori is moving with her family to the Kansas City Area where her husband, Rev. Clayton Smith, will

serve on the staff of the Church of the Resurrection.

Susan has 14 years of church administration experience. She has served three churches, most recently as the Business Manager at First United Methodist in Sikeston. Her husband, Roger, is pastor at the Charleston United Methodist Church.

All are invited to drop in to express appreciation and well wishes to Lori and a word of introduction and welcome to Susan.

Mark Your Calendars!

Southeast District of the Missouri Conference

101 N. Kingshighway, Suite 200
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-4703
Office: (573) 334-8723
Fax: (573) 334-3807
Email: southeast@ecunet.org
Website: www.sedistrictumc.org
Office hours: M-F 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM



David's Harp (continued from page 1)

Ministries Capital Campaign is just one of the creative ways that ministry is happening. If you or your church has not yet responded with a pledge I invite you to join Mary and me in supporting this ministry that allows us to live out 'radical hospitality.'

I will be out of the office the last week in August. After two months of on the job training I will be attending a training event for new district superintendents being held at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. I will leave on August 26

and return September 4. This will give me time for the training and for Mary and me to visit her parents in North Carolina. We are blessed to be surrounded by districts where their superintendent will be on call while I am gone. If you need a district superintendent please contact the district office.

Rev. David D. Norbury is District Superintendent of the Southeast District, Missouri Conference

Help Wanted at Wesley UMC/Sikeston

Nursery worker to provide childcare for ages 4 and under in our nursery during worship and some special events. Salary commensurate with experience.

Organist/keyboardist to play during worship services on Sunday morning and rehearsals. Salary commensurate with experience.

For more information contact the church office by calling (573-471-0384) or send an email to wesbert@clas.net.

Brent Robinson Memorial Fund

Rev. Brent Robinson was killed in automobile accident on Friday, July 29. The funeral service was held at the McDaniel Funeral Home in Kennett on Tuesday, August 2. Messages of caring and support may be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Brady Robinson, 405 N. Bypass, Kennett, MO 63857.

An Education Fund for Taylor and Cassidy Robinson has been set up at the Senath State Bank, PO Box 81, Kennett, MO 63857.



Bar-B-QUE September 16 Charleston UMC

The Charleston United Methodist Church will have its 11th Annual Bar-B-Que on Friday, September 16, 2005, at their Family Life Center, 1700 E. Marshall St., in Charleston. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults and \$4 for children. Serving time for the "all you care to eat" meal is 11:00 a.m. till 7:00 p.m. Carry-outs are available. Call the church office for more information or to purchase tickets in advance at 573-683-6188.

Come & Enjoy!

Welcome to New Pastors and their Families

We extend a warm Southeast **WELCOME** to these new pastors and their families:

Toni Dee
Bob Eisenhauer
Don Gandt
Jerry Geisert
Ray Hartbarger
Louie Lowe
Paula Moore
Richard Piper
Geoff Posegate
Avon Raczkowski

Kewamee
Regan's Chapel/Pine Hill
Oran
Marquand/Rhodes Chapel/Patton
Faith/Sumach
Dexter: First
Naylor
Perryville
Sikeston: First
Poplar Bluff: Grace

Pastors serving in the district but in **NEW** appointments include:

Jack Ketcher
Jim Pemberton
Roy Sherfield
Dan Usher
Jerry Willer

New Madrid
Hornersville/Caruth
Essex
East Prairie/Bridges
Fairview/Gravel Hill

Across the District

Churches Offer Programs and Ministries Especially for Children



FUN DAY at Bernie UMC

The First Fabulous Kids' Fun Day of the Bernie United Methodist Church was ... fabulous! After meeting at the church for half an hour of choir practice, nine children, ages 3 through 11, were transported to the home of Pastor Susan Marner-Sides, where the backyard had been transformed into a water

park, complete with wading pool, sprinkler, big beach balls, and a giant, inflatable water slide!

The kids — along with helpers Judy Miller, Brandee Zoll, and Bob Sides — spent the afternoon in total delight enjoying the *very* cold water. Other highlights were make-your-own sundaes on the back porch, rides in the pastoral family's

Noah Coming to Perryville & York Chapel

The biblical character Noah will be appearing Sunday morning, August 14th at both Perryville & York Chapel UMC thru a costumed characterization by 'Pastor Rich' Piper. The presentation, which is entitled *Noah: Living Under the Rainbow* is a lively recounting of Noah's faith and struggles as he answers the call of God. "We try

to have the great message of God's judgement and grace come alive in a spirited and fun recounting of the story through the eyes of Noah. There is laughter and heartfelt moments as Noah challenges each of us to listen and respond to the call of God and spread the Gospel call to come into the safety of a relationship with Jesus Christ,"

Chaffee VBS News

Holy Land Adventure Great Success

Six congregations (Chaffee First and Grace UMCs, Chaffee General Baptist, and Chaffee Christian churches) worked cooperatively to offer a Vacation Bible School experience to the children of the Chaffee area.

More than 35 adults and youth spent the week leading and teaching children in a Holy Land Adventure.

School Supply Collection

Benton UMW are collecting school supplies. The supplies will be given to area schools.

bright red 1959 El Camino truck and trailer, blowing bubbles, and cheering for "Mrs. Susan" as she took two turns on the water slide. After three hours of fun, everyone (well, almost everyone!) was ready to go home — but the mood of the day was summed up by 5-year-old Tres Hampton, who announced, "This was the best day of my life!"



Vacation Bible School

Charleston UMC

Eighty 3-year olds through 6th graders and eight adults learned about God in the evening Vacation Bible School program, July 11-15, at Charleston United Methodist Church.

Directed by Kris Jones the daily themes of "Know God", "Tell about God", "Talk to God", "Love God" and "Work for God" were carried out in crafts, story telling, recreation and music.

About fifty teenagers and adults provided teaching, meals and support services. The



students came from several churches in the community and there were a number of grandchildren from out of town.

School supplies were collected as the mission offering. They will

be given to Hearnes Elementary School. At the 8:30am Sunday Worship Service on July 17, the children provided a program that showed parents, grandparents and friends what they had learned.