



SOUTHEAST CIRCUIT RIDER

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David's Harp

One thing that marks the beginning of Fall for me are tart, juicy Jonathan apples. A second sign is the warm days and cool nights that have just arrived in this part of God's creation. Fall – or as I first learned it, Autumn – is my favorite time of year.

Another sign of Fall are the many harvest dinners and bazaars that are being held across our district. Mary and I have tasted our first 'kettle beef' – and we look forward to more. I had not heard of this dish before moving to the Southeast District. One bit of advice I received from a district superintendent was not to try and eat at three harvest dinners in one day.

Fall also brings Charge Conferences in our churches. I am looking forward to learning about the ministries in each church and meeting more United Methodists. I enjoy reading the many newsletters that cross my desk. There are many exciting things happening in our churches and our charge conferences will give us an opportunity to celebrate what is happening and seek to discern where God is leading us forward.

My thanks to each church in the way you have responded to needs



brought by Hurricane Katrina. Your responses have been many – offerings to UMCOR, health kits, clean-up buckets, blankets, helping with those who have found refuge in our area, delivering items to the UMCOR depot, etc.

Our district VIM coordinator, Jim Mills, is making plans for our next level of response. And as I write this article I am aware that our response will be impacted by yet another hurricane, Rita. One thing I learned during the floods of 1993 and 1995 is that United Methodists are a generous and caring people. Thank you for sharing your faith in tangible ways. You have indeed become the 'hands of Jesus.'

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Hurricane Recovery Workcamps Set for Summer 2006



The Missouri Conference youth will be sponsoring three Hurricane Recovery workcamps for youth next summer. Two camps will be in Mississippi and one in Alabama. The Mississippi camps are June 18-23 and June 25-30 for grades 6-12. The Alabama camp is for grades 9-12 and will be held the week of July 16-21. For more information and registration, please check the web at www.moumethodist.org under youth or contact bevboehmer@aol.com.

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2005 Southeast Missouri/Bootheel Festival of Sharing "Ingathering"

October 8-Dexter Fairgrounds

Volunteers (youth and adults) will gather at the Stoddard County Fairgrounds on Saturday morning, October 8, at 8:30 a.m. for the Opening Rally of this year's Ingathering event. The Stoddard County Fairgrounds are located on Highway 114 East in Dexter.

The opening event will feature an address from Nancy Tegtmeier, a representative of Church World Service and music from the First Baptist Church (Dexter) Praise Band. Following a dedication of gifts and services, volunteers will begin packing of beans, rice and popcorn for distribution to 22 Southeast Missouri agencies.

Between 10 a.m. and noon, churches from across the district will deliver kits and other donations they have collected for district and state agencies and in response to disasters around the world, including the recent Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Distribution to local agencies will get underway between 1 and 2 p.m.

Volunteers are needed throughout the event. Visit the Festival of Sharing web site at www.umocm.com/festival.htm for additional information or contact Rev. Rick Lasley at (573) 471-0384 or (573) 380-4599.

United Methodist Repond to UMCOR Needs

As of September 26, United Methodist cash contributions to Hurricane Katrina relief and rehabilitation passed the \$7 million mark. The figure represents online, telephone, and mail donations and does not include donations given as a direct response to Hurricane Rita. Missouri United Methodists gifts total more than \$309,000.

UMCOR is now providing two

giving numbers, Advance #982523, Hurricane 2005-Katrina and Advance #901323 Hurricane Rita.

Tax deductible gifts may be placed in any United Methodist church offering plate or mailed directly to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. Credit card donations can be given by phone at 1-800-554-8583 or online at www.methodistrelief.org.



100 Health Kits

After reading the urgent request from UMCOR, Trinity UMC, Bloomfield, assembles 100 health kits

Where Are Evacuees in Missouri?

As of September 30, there are more than 14,000 Katrina-Rita evacuees living in Missouri. Estimates are that 80% will remain in our state. Would you like to find out if there are evacuees living in your area? There is a listing by county and region on the Office of Creative

Ministries website. The address is www.umocm.com. The site also list the Red Cross Chapters where the evacuees are registered. If you would like to find out more about the needs of evacuees living in your area, call the Red Cross Chapter nearest you.

David's Harp (continued from page 1)

Conference and District apportionments for 2006 will soon be sent to you. We have your conference apportionment figures in our office. We are awaiting the district apportionment figures from the conference treasurer. The 2004 District Conference voted to increase the 2006 apportionment 12% over the 2005 figures. This should help you in your preliminary budget projections.

October is Clergy Appreciation month. I trust the creativity of each church in our district in expressing appreciation for those who serve as your pastors. I am grateful for each one – for each gift for ministry each pastor shares. Each day I pray for the pastors and churches

in our district. I invite you to pray for your church and for your pastor.

In September we wished Godspeed to Clayton Smith and Paul Lanning as they moved to new ministry settings. We also welcomed Jeff Long to Centenary and Gary Carter to Kennett First. In October we wish Godspeed to Jim Brice and Chris Wise. We welcome Anthony Stewart to Sedgewickville-Crossroads, Danny James to Scopus-Old Union and Bud Snyder to Coldwater.

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

Fall Festivals and Bazaars

Kettle Beef & Chicken Dinner

Saturday, Oct 8
3:30-7:30 p.m.

Wesley UMC

142 Carnation Lane
Fruitland, MO
573-243-5948

Adults \$7, Ages 5-10 \$3.50

Fall Festival

Saturday, Oct 15
10 a.m. -2 p.m.

First UMC

110 E 5th St.
Portageville, MO
573-379-3603

Crafts, Baked Goods, Lunch

Fall Bazaar

Saturday, Oct 8
7a.m.-2p.m.

Hobbs Chapel

3024 State Hwy 177
Cape Girardeau, MO
573-334-3080

Soup, Chili, Baked Goods, More

UMW Bazaar

Monday, Oct 31, 4-7 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov 1, 9a.m. -1 p.m.

First UMC

1307 N Main St
Sikeston, MO
573-471-3283

Crafts, Baked Goods, Lunch



Fiestal Sunday

Oct 30

6:00 p.m.

Fun for Everyone!

Mexican Food, Games
Festive Music, Pinata

Bernie UMC
307 W Main Ave
Bernie, MO
573-293-5685

**Benefits Hispanic Ministry
Covenant**

News from Senath UMC

Senath United Methodist recently completed a number of church improvement projects including adding on a spacious kitchen addition, improving bathrooms, landscaping the back part of the church, resealing the parking lot, and removing some overgrown shrubbery.

Using the Circle G Ranch curriculum from Cokesbury the church held a successful "Back to School Round-up." More than twenty five children participated.

A children's Discovery Club has been started for the fall. The program reaches pre-school age children through grade 5.

Across the District



Ham & Bean Feed Raises Money for Festival of Sharing

Beautiful weather and delicious food drew a large number of people from local churches and the Dexter Community to the Annual Ham & Bean Feed on Friday, September 16. Proceeds from the dinner, sponsored by the First Christian Church, Sadler's Chapel and First UMC-Dexter, will be used to purchase beans for distribution at the Festival of Sharing.

Celebrations In October 180 Years of Methodism in Commerce

On World Communion Sunday, October 2, the congregation of Broadway United Methodist joined with the congregation of St. Paul in Commerce to celebrate St. Paul's 180th anniversary. Following worship all enjoyed a potluck dinner and an informal sing-a-long.

150 Years of Grace

2005 marks the 150th Anniversary of Grace United Methodist Church, 521 Caruthers in Cape Girardeau. A special day of celebration, including a Celebration Dinner at the A.C. Brase Arena is planned for October 16. Bishop Robert Schnase will be preaching.

Illmo UMC Celebrates It's 100th Birthday

October 16 marks a special day of celebration for the congregation of Illmo. They will be celebrating their 100th birthday with a special worship service and catered lunch. Rev. David Norbury, District Superintendent will be the guest preacher. Illmo ia located at 718 4th Street in Scott City.

Consecration Celebration at Zion UMC

On Sunday October 16, the congregation and friends of Zion UMC in Gordonville will celebrate the completion of it's new Disciple Center. A special Celebration Meal will follow the 10:30 worship service. Bishop Robert Schnase will be the worship leader for a Service of Consecration at 1:00 p.m. An Open House with refreshments and self-guided tour of the Zion facilities will be held from 2:00 till 3:30 p.m.

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handiwork."--Psalm 19:1

On a Chewing Gum Wrapper

by Rev. Anthony Stewart

In the movie Superman, Lex Luther says, "Some people can read War and Peace by Tolstoy and think it was just an interesting story. Others can read the back of a chewing gum wrapper and unlock the mysteries of the universe."

I hate to quote a villain to make my point, but there is a lot of truth to that statement. Jesus said after some of his parables, "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Some folks heard the parables spoken by Jesus, and they just sounded like interesting bedtime stories. His true disciples heard these parables and understood the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

Some people can see a beautiful sunset over the ocean and say, "That's kind of pretty," and still not believe in a Creator. Others can look at a simple leaf and see God's fingerprint on His creation. Certainly the heavens, the stars, sun, moon, and galaxies, declare

the glory of God because of their magnificence. But it can be easily missed that all of creation makes the same declaration of glory, beauty, wisdom, and love.

Have you ever watched a colony of ants building a hill? Even such tiny, insignificant creatures as this are given amazing skills intelligence by their Divine Creator to complete their task.

Look at all the different kinds of flowers there are in this world. Look at the odd variety of animals. Some have two legs, some four, some have more than fifty legs. Look at the peculiarities of a duck-billed platypus! Certainly this wide array of unique creatures couldn't have happened by accident. Only a Creator with divine intelligence and imagination (and a sense of humor) could have designed such things.

Think of our own bodies that have eyes to see, brains that think, hearts that pump blood. We take

for granted that all this is ordinary. Really, life is nothing short of a miracle. In fact, within you is the kingdom of God (Luke 17:21). How about that for amazing!

We can look at the world and ourselves with new eyes. We can see the ordinary as extraordinary. God's signature is all over this beautiful creation because He is present within it, and his kingdom is within us. In Acts 17:27-28 it says that He is not far from any of us, "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being." We can see something wonderful and brush it off as ordinary, or we can see something ordinary (even a chewing gum wrapper) and see God's existence. Let's forever keep our new eyes open and turned upon God. Let's take comfort in the fact that we stand always in His loving presence (see Psalm 139). The heavens, and all of creation, declare God's glory and existence around us and within us.