

# The Lamplighter

*Living and Sharing...*



October, 2009

First United Methodist  
Church

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## Pastor's Paragraph

Thank you all for your prayers for healing over the past weeks. As most of you know, when the Volunteers in Mission team returned from its extended mission to LaGonave, Haiti, several of us returned to a life with Dengue Fever. Our local physicians and hospital were able to pinpoint the issue, track its progress, and provide help as the virus ran its course.

The Fever, which is a virus born through mosquito contact, had various affects on the team. Several had no particular symptoms. Others of us had varying degrees of fever, rash, diarrhea, headache, and physical pain. All these symptoms can be attributed to Dengue Fever, which is locally known as the "broken bone disease" because the pain throughout the body feels like all bones are broken!

While we made recovery through rehydration and sleep, we also discovered a sense that disease can become a great equalizer, making the strong weak. Several of us believed we would never get sick. But we weakened and were helpless. I know, as I spent several days sleeping as my strength evaporated. It was only after a week of dedicated recovery that I have regained my health. Others on the team have continued their recovery as well, and we are grateful for that.

Despite these setbacks, the relationships we built and the construction work we accomplished made our weeklong stay worthwhile. We learned about life "as others have it." We learned something else—we got to leave a difficult situation and return to our own communities where we are relatively safe and protected. For this we are grateful. Your prayers and positive thoughts helped us dramatically. God was made real through you. Thank you for offering your blessings.

--Fred

Ps. Jeremy and Masha Richart had their first child and our first grand child, Natalya, born Wednesday, September 23. All are doing well.

### RADICAL HOSPITALITY

"Welcome one another,  
therefore, just as Christ  
has welcomed you, for  
the glory of God."  
(Romans 15:7)

## Hospitality Meals

Wednesday night dinners are currently being served. Serving starts at 5:15. This will provide those attending events and meetings at the church to come from work or school and have din-

ner. Suggested donations: \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.

If you would like to help in any way with the dinners please contact Kim Beger or there is a sign up in the library.

## Rethink Church with Kathryn—October 18

Kathryn Witte of the Nebraska Annual Conference will be the featured presenter to the Church Council and Congregation on October 18. Featuring new ways to be ministry partners in our community, we will continue our process of being God's blessings. Kathryn will provide strategic thinking to become engaged, connected and thoughtful in God's future. In addition, participants will gain a future orientation. If you liked the Micah Corps presentation,

and if you have enjoyed healthy eating through the garden project, you will appreciate "RETHINK CHURCH."

At this writing, 1<sup>st</sup> UMC of Auburn has been invited to be a featured presenter at the conference RETHINK CHURCH event on November 13, in Lexington, NE. We will be helping people by explaining our BIG Garden Project, its goals and the special celebration at the River Inn Resort on August 31.

The October 18 event will include a brief presentation by Kathryn at the 10:45 am worship service and will be followed by a wholesome meal and a more detailed presentation in the Fellowship Hall.



## The Finance Committee sponsors event by Nebraska United Methodist Foundation October 6.

In years past, United Methodists have wanted a way to continue special ministries through extended giving. This year, the Finance Committee is offering you a special invitation to join Jim Heller and Anita Christ of the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation. You will learn about special opportunities that exist through your church to extend your cherished values through giving to the Foundation.

We already have an account in

the foundation. Funding this account allows our congregation to annually fund scholarships to graduating High School Seniors. We want to build this fund and we want to provide additional opportunities for people to make sure their values outlive them.

At 3PM, there will be a tea for those who are looking for information and opportunities to use estate planning as a way of extending Christian Values through the Foundation.

A second event will include a light

meal at 6pm. This event will provide information needed for people to make decisions about establishing needed ministries through estates and trusts.

The Finance Committee at the Church Council encourages you to make a stand for your values through church giving. We also want to make sure you have up-to-date information so you can be excellent stewards through estate giving.

## In the Mail

### *Fresh & Local*

Thanks for the opportunity to meet 100 wonderful Methodists. Where were the rest?

*Tom Rudloff*

Thank you for the lovely evening on the river. What a wonderful Big Garden story to tell. I pray God continues to bless you richly in your life and ministry.

kindest Regards,  
Kathryn Witte, NE Conference  
Director of Communications

### *Missions*

Thanks so much for helping us serve fresh & nutritious foods to our Bulldogs! We really appreciate all the tomatoes and boy are they delicious.

Susan Lister, Dietician  
Auburn Public Schools

Thank you for your generous donation to Southeast Nebraska Community Action Council, Inc. (SENCA). Your donations make it possible for us to continue to meet the needs of children and families in southeast Nebraska. Annually, SENCA helps over 3,000 individuals through our various programs. Your donation will continue to provide food, prescriptions medication, school supplies, rent, utilities and elderly nutrition and transportation assistance. Without generous supporters like you, we could not make these services available. Again, we thank you for your donation.

Sasha Rightsell  
Family Development Associate

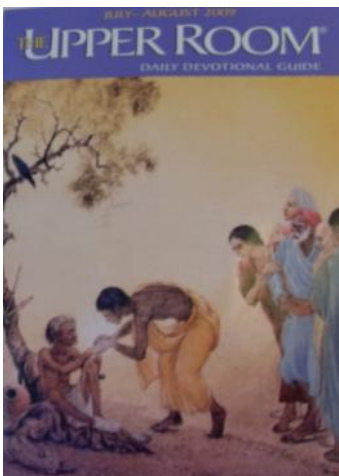
*You are invited to attend the  
Open House Reception  
For the new*

**Nebraska United Methodist  
Conference Center**  
3333 Landmark Circle  
Lincoln, Nebraska

*Sunday, October 11, 2009  
2:30–4:30 pm.*

*Join us in celebrating an exciting new era in the  
Nebraska United Methodist Conference*

*Building tours will be available and light refreshments will be served.*



September/October *Upper Room* and *Alive Now* Devotionals are available. Pick up copies for yourself and a friend.

## Happenings

### New Member

Welcome to the membership of First UMC, **Patricia Brady**. Patti joined us on August 30, 2009.

### Baptism

On Sunday, September 27 **Emma Marie Dunekacke** received Christian Baptism. Emma was born on May 11, 2009 to Matt & Shannon Dunekacke.

Grandparents include Craig & Gina Long.

### Death

Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Dr. Jim McCoy** who passed away on September 17, 2009. Services for Dr. McCoy were held on September 21st at First UMC with Dr. Fred Richart officiating.

## October Birthdays

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Helen Casey<br>Margaret Stuart                                    | 12. Mildred Bright<br>Mary Comstock        | 25. Ashley Shenefelt<br>Ashleigh Stough |
| 2. Brian Sylvester   | 13. Paula Bysfield<br>Marlene North        | 27. Shawn Casey<br>Darci Fender         |
| 5. JoAnn Grafton<br>Austin Lavigne                                   | 16. Derek Lunzmann                         | Ken Heronimus<br>Peggy Palmerton        |
| 6. LaVerne Epperson<br>Cayden Hamann<br>Jean Larsen<br>Catlin Stults | 17. Teresa Randolph<br>Kent Reiersen       |   |
| 7. Jim Grant, III<br>Colton Shenefelt                                | 18. Jerin (Ehmke) Gregson<br>Megin Grant   |   |
| 9. Ed Bantam<br>Michelle Custer                                      | 19. John Cronin                            |   |
| 10. Jack Conn  | 22. Darrien Costello                       |   |
|  | 23. Beth Gausman<br>Amber (Glenn) Groeling |   |
|  | 24. Orlah Hansen                           |   |

Please report the names of those missing from the birthday calendar to the church office.

### HEARTWARMING WORSHIP and PRAYER

"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord."  
Psalm 84:1-2

## World Communion Sunday

The recent **Volunteers in Mission** to Haiti will be the theme of worship on Sunday, October 4. Expanding the theme of World Communion Sunday, the Mission team which recently spent 10 days in

Haiti will provide visual expressions of this project and will provide an explanation of their work and what it means to return to our country after experiencing Haitian poverty. Mission members are: Tom Black,

Amy Ramsey, Dennis & Patti Brady, Fred Richart, and Julie Kernes. The VIM team was joined by veteran Dianne Bolton of Council Grove, KS.

## Blessing the Animals—October 4

A number of research studies have shown that people with pets live longer and healthier lives. Pets give an object to compassion, and remind us all that there is room in our lives for more love. Our sponsorship of this event also reminds us that we are stewards of the planet, and we are given dominion over plants and animals.

As a step toward increasing our appreciation of All God's Creation, our congregation will sponsor a brief service Sunday, October 4 at 1PM,

which blesses our animals. Please feel free to bring pets to the parking lot area to be ready for their blessing. Each animal will be presented by its owner and will receive a special blessing from Dr. Fred. In years past, pets ranging from cats and dogs to gerbils and horses have received a special blessing.

If you cannot be with us on October 4, you may offer this prayer as a way of blessing animals in your life:

*"Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen."*



## October Music Schedule



October 4  
 World Communion Sunday  
 Mission Sunday—Haiti VIM

October 18  
 8:30—Children's Puppets and Music  
 10:45—Sanctuary Choir

October 11  
 8:30 & 10:45 Sanctuary Choir  
 "We'll Understand It Better By and By"

October 25  
 8:30 & 10:45—Sanctuary Choir  
 "African Psalm"

## Brown Bag Book Study

### Thursday Brown Bag Book Study

Currently studying "The Shack" by Wm. Paul Young.  
 Thursdays at 12 noon

We are reading and discussing two chapters each week. This should take until November 12 to finish. Our next study will be Dr. Wayne Dyer's "Excuses Begone!" Other books on our list for the year are "The Faith Club," "The Alchemist," and "The Last Lecture". Everyone who is interested in a noon book study is welcome—sack lunch optional. You are welcome to join us as your work schedule allows. If you would like to join us at any time, contact the church office to find out where we are in the book.



VITAL FAITH  
 FORMATION AND  
 PRAYER

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers."  
 Acts 2:42

## Children's Wednesday Programming Continues

Wednesday evening puppets and music continue to rehearse on Wednesday evenings. For the month of October children in grades 1-5 will practice puppet skits from 5-5:30 pm, share in the Wednesday dinners from 5:30 to 6 pm and then have music rehearsal—6-6:30 pm. During the 8:30, October 18th and at 10:45, November 1st services

they will share puppet and music at worship.

Beginning in November this time will be used for the children to rehearse for the 2009 Children's Christmas program. This will be presented on December 6th.



## Adult Sunday School

A new 5-week video series will start on Sunday, September 27 at 9:30 in the purple room. Ray Vander Laan takes us on a weekly DVD journey to the "Promised Land" with Israel and Palestine at the crossroads between the mighty empires of Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Biblical writers assumed that their readers were familiar with Near Eastern geography, history, and culture, using a language bound by culture and time. This language was one of pictures, metaphors, and examples rather than ideas, definitions, and abstractions that we

might use, and it might emphasize the learning process more than the result. This study will help us modern Christians deepen our appreciation and understanding of God's Word from a cultural context.

## Prayer Chain

To start the prayer chain during office hours, call the church office at 274-3329 or e-mail your request to

[aubunumc@windstream.net](mailto:aubunumc@windstream.net)

Office hours are from 9-3 Monday through Friday. After hours you may contact **ONE** of the following to have your request passed to the members of the prayer chain.

- Trudy Peaslee  
grammyboo3@gmail.com  
274-4536
- Arlene Whisler  
aw03712@windstream.net  
274-7634
- Carol Ehmke  
carolehmke@hotmail.com
- Susan Kruse  
susankruse07@yahoo.com
- Midge Mason  
274-4257



If you do not have e-mail and would like to be a part of the prayer chain ministry, please contact Jeannine Crotty. She will receive requests by e-mail and call those who do not

have internet or e-mail access.



Annual Church Conference  
October 27, 2009

## Parish Health

### RISK TAKING MISSION AND JUSTICE WORK

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it for one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."  
Matthew 25:40

The cold and flu season is upon us! Now is the time to clean out your medicine cabinet and check for these three products: Zicam Cold Remedy Nasal Gel, Zicam Cold Remedy Swabs, and Zicam Cold Remedy Swabs

(Kids Size). The U.S. Food and Drug Ad. recently issued a warning to stop using and discard all of these products because of the numerous reports of some users losing their sense of smell, perhaps perma-

nently, after using the cold remedies For more information, go to [fda.gov](http://fda.gov) and enter "Zicam" in the search field.

Here's to your good health.

## Haiti VIM

Thanks to all for the financial support and many prayers that you sent our way. We all returned safely from La Gonave and Port-au-Prince on Monday the 14th but we brought a few tropical ills home with us.

Our daily devotions centered on the study of how the political, social, and economic systems of Haiti are contributing to the devastating hunger and poverty. We literally immersed ourselves physically and spiritually with the impoverished of Haiti, living and worshiping with them, eating the foods that they would eat, if they were eating every day like us.

God changed our lives in Haiti, in unexpected [and continuing] ways

and it was a powerful mission experience: From the universally recognized sound of happy kids at play, to the unexpected realization that these kids are picking up the culturally acceptable patterns of corruption and deceit to the simple gift giving of balloons and beads; from the many market foods available once a week, to the awareness that nobody can afford to buy anything; from the many failed US project ideas, to the hope of Haitian led cooperative efforts in fishing, farming, and herding among a few villages. Without some fundamental changes, this cycle of hunger and poverty will continue. Perhaps we are prepared now to lead some of these changes.

A 'Mission Sunday' is planned for October 4 to show you some of the specifics of our experiences.



## Nemaha County Gives Back

### Mark your Calendars!!!!

In 2008, the Nemaha County Gives Back Winter festival raised \$15,472 which was gifted to SENCA, Project Response and SENDS. With the money, we were able to provide 100 food baskets, 218 children were given toys/gifts, warm winter coats, pajamas, jeans, and shirts, 100 - \$25 gift certificates were provided to the elderly for food along with a warm blanket, and 70 SENDS clients were

given \$25 gift certificates to purchase clothing. Eight of the ten Christmas trees and three of the Christmas wreaths that were auctioned off were donated back to needy families with children. Those families were thrilled to receive the trees/wreaths as some had never had a Christmas tree/wreath before and one of the families had three children.

Planning is underway for the 3rd annual event. Bobette has a baby on the way so she is asking for

extra help this year with servers, decorators, set-up/tear down crews, etc!!! The event will take place Saturday and Sunday, December 5 & 6th from 5 - 8pm at the 4-H Building in Auburn.

If you would like to help serve on the Nemaha County Gives Back committee, help serve in any way or if you have any questions, please contact Bobette Guenther at 274-8919 or e-mail at [bobetteg@hotmail.com](mailto:bobetteg@hotmail.com).

### GRACIOUS GENEROSITY

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity"  
2 Corinthians 9:11

## Green Team

The Green Team will meet on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 6:00 pm. Our agenda will include: how to put the gardens to rest for the winter, a final Farmer's Market report, and a report on the Nebraska Food Cooperative. Libby Broekmeier, president of the NFC and Beth Kernes-Krause will be present to speak about the Food Coop and how the church can be involved. All church

members are always welcome at Green Team meetings.

### October Environmental Thought

With the temperatures starting to slide, these tips may help you save energy while remaining comfortable. For every degree you turn down the thermostat in winter, you'll reduce your energy bill by as much as 5%. If you install a programmable ther-

mostat, you can set it to turn your temperature way down or up when you are at work or sleeping.

SAVE: \$114 YEARLY ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS.  
REDUCE: YOUR HOME'S ANNUAL EMISSIONS OF CO<sub>2</sub> BY 2,683 POUNDS

Source: Go Green, Live Rich  
By David Bach

## Youth Group Wreath Sales



The youth will be selling live Christmas Wreaths, Sprays and Garland during the month of October. Delivery can be expected around Thanksgiving.

Prices will remain the same.

### CONNECTIONAL JOY AND COMMITMENT

"I'm a friend and companion of all who fear you, of those committed to living by your rules."

Psalm 119:63  
(The Message)

## Missing Addresses

The church is currently looking for addresses of members we have lost track of. Aside from communicating with all our members, the Hospitality Team will soon be sending "Care Packages" to college students.

Most missing addresses are twenty-something's who have begun their adult lives or college students who are living on or off campus. If you have a family member who has recently moved please let the church office know where they are.

## U. M. Women

### September Meeting

October 7      12:00 noon  
Member Potluck luncheon

Program   Harriet Kerl  
Devotion   Phyllis Hemmingsen  
Committee   Kathy Grant  
                 Peggy Kühl

### Morning Book Study

October 21      8:30 am  
\*\*\*Family Connection\*\*\*  
(new location)



# October, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30—Women's Bible Study  6 pm. Green Team	2	3
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #d9ead3;">                     Sunday Worship 8:30 &amp; 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am                 </div>						
4 <i>18th Sunday after Pentecost</i>  World Communion Sunday Mission Sunday	5	6 Bequests/ Foundation 3:00 & 6:00 pm.	7 12 noon UMW 5 pm Children's Puppets 5:15 Light meal served 5:30 Financial Peace 5:30 Spirit Wave 6:00 Children's Music 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	8 9:30—Women's Bible Study	9	10
11 <i>19th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	12	13	14 5 pm Children's Puppets 5:15 Light meal served 5:30 Financial Peace 5:30 Spirit Wave 6:00 Children's Music 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	15 9:30—Women's Bible Study	16	17
18 <i>20th Sunday after Pentecost</i>  Rethink Church	19	20 6 pm. SPRC	21 8:30 am UMW Book Study 5 pm Children's Puppets 5:15 Light meal served 5:30 Financial Peace 5:30 Spirit Wave 6:00 Children's Music 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	22 9:30—Women's Bible Study	23 5:30 pm. DUMP Darlings Café—Auburn	24
25  Church Conference	26	27	28 5 pm Children's Puppets 5:15 Light meal served 5:30 Financial Peace 5:30 Spirit Wave 6:00 Children's Music 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	28 9:30—Women's Bible Study	30	31

## Other Weekly Activities

Mon.  
10:00 Prayer Shawl Knitting/Crocheting

Tues.  
9:30 Prayer & Share

Thurs  
8:00 A. A.

Sat.  
8:00 A. A.

## Fitness Group M-F at 6:30 am

M-W-F meet at church  
T-Th meet at AHS track  
In case of rain meet at Wellness Center track

**Auburn First United Methodist Church**  
Presiding Bishop, Rev. Ann Brookshire Sherer  
District Superintendent, Rev. Randy Sailors  
Pastor, Dr. Frederick Richard  
Secretary, Teresa Fletcher

**Office Hours**  
Mon.—Fri. 9:00—12:30

**Worship Times**  
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:45 am.  
Sunday School 9:30 am.

# The Lamplighter



We're on the Web

[www.auburnneumc.com](http://www.auburnneumc.com)

(402)274-3329  
Fax: (402) 274-3385

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