

The Lamplighter

The mission of our church is to respond faithfully by living and sharing the teachings of Jesus Christ.

February, 2009

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

Congratulations to Auburn UMC!

Your compassion for people in this community and beyond has changed lives and brought our sense of God's kingdom closer. Sturdy financial and spiritual support continues the tradition of supporting our mission shares (formerly called apportionments) for mission work far away and programs locally. God's Realm is everywhere, and together we bring the joy of hope to those around us. Here are some ways we provide hope:

- The Nebraska Conference is sending a team to Nigeria next week to see first hand the power of saving homeless and parentless children. Our orphanage there housed

28 children in its first year, and continues to grow.

- Immigrants to the US are receiving special attention from "Justice for Our Neighbors", a program that brings professional legal skills, language classes, fellowship and the opportunity to worship together. This Omaha based ministry continues to be strengthened by our support.
- Auburn UMC will receive some grant monies and expert advice on developing gardens in our area. Together, we will provide skills and opportunity to grow, enjoy and share locally grown produce. We will partner with others through the winter

and early spring months to gather the expertise and organization necessary to be more successful than we would be on our own.

We're accomplishing a great deal locally. It seems appropriate to highlight what we're doing with God. So, every few weeks, a new "mission emphasis" will be displayed in the library. Please take time to review our mission opportunities, pray for them, and support them financially. You are a blessing!

--peace and grace,

Fred

Six Signs of Discipleship

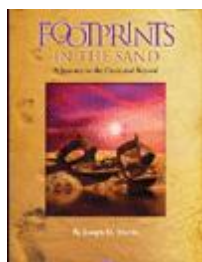
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Heartwarming Worship

EASTER CANTATA

Rehearsals are now underway for the Easter Cantata to be performed on Sunday, March 29th at 3:00 pm at First UMC. The Cantata Choir rehearses in the church sanctuary each Wednesday at 8 pm (except February 25th) and on Sundays February 8 & 22 and March 8 & 22 at 2:00 pm.

All who enjoy singing and are at least 7th grade age or older are welcome. We have invited members of the Auburn community to join us, so if you know



someone who enjoys singing, please invite them. You are not required to be at every rehearsal. If you are not available on Wednesdays, come to the Sunday rehearsals. Listening CDs are also available to aid in learning the music on your own.

Other volunteers are needed to provide narration (we would like one male and one female voice), design and run the PowerPoint, and help with publicity. Contact Teresa Fletcher (274-3329 or 414-1215) to volunteer or with questions.



WORSHIP NOTES

Choir

The choir will provide special music February 8 & 22 at both services and February 15th at 10:45. If you are a fan of the music of Bill & Gloria Gaither you won't want to miss worship in February.

Communion

Communion is served the first Sunday of each month at both the 8:30 & 10:45 worship services. A volunteer is needed to serve as communion coordinator. Responsibilities include procuring and setting up the elements and recruiting communion

servers. Contact Pastor Fred or the church office (274-3329) with questions or to volunteer.

Acolytes

Acolyte rehearsal will be on Wednesday, February 11th from 6-7 pm. Children in grades 3-6 are invited to be a part of the Acolyte ministry.

Vital Faith Formation and Prayer

PRAYER CHAIN

Anyone without a computer who would like to be involved with the Prayer Chain should contact Jeannine Crotty, 274-3048. She will set up a calling tree so everyone has a chance to participate.

To send a request to the


Prayer Chain, contact the church office, auburnumc@windstream.net (274-3329) between the hours of 9 and 3 on weekdays. After hours contacts are: Trudy Peaslee, grammyboo3@gmail.com (274-4536), Arlene Whisler, aw03712@alltel.net (274-4846),

Midge Mason (274-4257), Carol Ehmke, carolehmke@hotmail.com, or Susan Kruse, susankruse07@yahoo.com. Please contact only one of the above after office hours. Your request will be sent on by them.

UMW READING BOOKS

Books from Conference Library are in the library on the east wall. Please check books out on the clipboard. They are due Feb. 20.

- *Stop the Next War*
- *Miriam, Mary and Me*
- *Vernon Can Read*, by Vernon Jordan, Nat'l best seller
- *Who Stole My Church* (what to do when the church you love tries to enter the 21st Century)
- *Journey to Dignity*
- *Living Bountifully*, the blessings of stewardship
- *First Day in Grapes* (child's book)
- *Children at War*, child sol-



The "Upper Room" and "Alive Now" daily devotionals are provided for you by the Church. Please feel free to take one for yourself and a friend. The March/April 2009 issue is now available. Daily devotionals may also be read on-line at: www.upperroom.org/devotions.

FAITH FORMATION

The committee met in January. The minutes are available upon request.

We will need an additional Sunday School teacher next fall. If more than one person is interested, responsibilities can be shared and rotated if desired.

Those interested in assisting with Bible School, please contact Amy soon as the program and dates need to be set by the middle of February.

Three youth attended an

Arts Festival in Omaha. I am hoping to have them write a paragraph about their experience. These will be shared when completed.

A Safe Sanctuary class was held, having seven students complete the course. I can conduct Safe Sanctuary classes now, anyone interested in taking them please contact me.

A calendar for Acolytes has been placed in the Library. The sign up lets families choose

dates and times they will be present.

Puppet shows are being planned.

The committee asks the congregation for a camp coordinator. This coordinator would gather and distribute information to youth and adults. The coordinator may also assist with funding ideas.

The next meeting is March 5, 2009, at 7:00 pm.

-Amy Conner

LENTEN OFFERINGS

This year during Lent we will be offering a buffet of opportunities for everyone to participate in. Wednesday evenings will be full of choices for everyone in the family. The evening will start with a meal at 5:30 pm. Break-out groups will meet from 6:00 to 7:00.

The women will be scrapbooking (this group begins meeting on February 4th and continues during Lent). Bring your scrapbooking supplies and a page to work on. The men will

meet to discuss clips from popular sports movies or the music of Bruce Springsteen, the children will be participating in puppet dramas to be presented during worship, and the youth will prepare dramas for Sunday services. The choir will continue to rehearse each week at 7:00 pm followed by the Cantata choir at 8:00. Childcare will be available throughout the evening for very young children.

On Thursday mornings a ladies' Bible study will meet at

10:00 am. And at noon the Brown bag group will discuss "Chocolate for Lent", by Hilary Brand. This group will view the movie "Chocolat" on the afternoon of Sunday, February 22nd.

Early on Friday's (6:30 am) the Men's Devotional group will continue to meet. They will use "The 2009 Upper Room Devotions" as their resource.

We hope that everyone will find something of interest. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Fred or the church office (274-3329).

LENTEN DEVOTION BOOK

February 9, 2009. That is the deadline for submitting your inspirational stories for our Lenten Devotional Book. So far only twelve have committed to writing, we need forty-seven (one for each day in Lent). The decision will be made February 10th as to whether to continue publishing the devotion book. If you are interested in writing, please let us know that by sign-

ing up on the south table in the church library.

On the sign up sheet you will see the scripture for each day and a theme that connects to the reading. To sign up, choose a day that appeals to you and write your name on the blank line beside it. Then write your story following the pattern of "The Upper Room" daily devotion. Please be sure to include a

Prayer, Thought for the Day and a Prayer Focus. Then turn your contribution into the church office in person, by mail, or by e-mail-auburnumc@windstream.net.

If by February 9 we have enough submitted devotions we will go ahead with publishing the book and mailing it on February 20, 2009 so it will be available by Ash Wednesday.

Risk Taking Mission and Justice Ministry

PARISH HEALTH

CPR Training

FEBRUARY! What celebration do you think of in February? Valentine's Day, of course! This Valentine's Day, please take time to reflect on the health of your own heart and those of others. **YOU COULD BE A LIFESAVER!** The American Heart Association hopes more people will

take advantage of CPR classes.

We are especially fortunate to have CPR classes offered in Auburn during February and March with Nancy Ramsey teaching the classes. Sign up sheets for classes offered will be available at church. You may sign up at church or call Nancy at 274-5088 if you have questions concerning the

classes. Nancy reminds everyone that CPR training should be renewed every two years.

Here's to
your good
health!



Collection for SENCA Food Pantry

Donations of non-perishable food and paper items are collected and taken regularly to the SENCA food pantry. Just bring your donations to the shopping cart in the library and the missions team will see it gets to those in need.



As part of their Sunday School lessons, our 1, 2, and 3rd graders will be collecting cans of soup to put in the shopping cart. It would be nice if the congregation, when giving to the food pantry would consider donating soup this month.

A MILE OF PENNIES

After November & December collections were counted, the 3-6 grade Sunday School class have enough pennies to stretch just over one tenth of a mile. They will continue to collect until they have 84,480 pennies collected (enough to reach a mile). The collection will then be donated to *Nothing But Nets*, a global grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria. The people of The United Methodist Church have joined hands with the United Nations Foundation, the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares, Sports Illustrated and other organizations to support *Nothing But Nets*.

GREEN TEAM

The Green Team will meet on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 7:30 pm. in the church library. Our agenda will be to discuss and make final plans for seeing that the garden project gets started this year. We will also take time to watch and discuss the 23 minute video, *Ruth Stout's Garden*.

Volunteers are still needed to start seeds for our gardens. If you are a gardener and start your own plants, we would be happy to supply you with seeds and supplies to start the plants

we will need. Contact Teresa Fletcher (414-1215) if you can help.

In April we will dedicate our garden sites on the *Festival of God's Creation* Sunday (Apr. 19th). We will then need volunteers throughout the spring and summer to help prepare the soil, plant the crops, weed, water, and harvest. Watch for work dates.

Our harvest will be made available to SENCA and SENDS clients. The general public will also have the opportu-

nity to purchase produce through the Farmer's Market and Sunday produce table. Proceeds will be used for garden expenses and the church's mission share obligations.

Apartment dwellers, if you are interested in your own garden spot, contact Teresa or any Green Team member for details. We will have a few raised beds in town. These are ideal gardens for those with limited mobility.

Connectional Joy and Commitment

DUMP

(Don't Underestimate My Pick...of Restaurant)



Friday, February 27th
5:30 pm.

Wheeler Inn, Auburn

UMW

February 4

1:30 pm.

Prayer & Self Denial

Program: Audre Blankenship

Devotions: Arlene Whisler

Committee: Linda Warren

Ruth Chrip



UMW Book Study
Wednesday, February 18
8:30 am.
Darling's Cafe

FITNESS GROUP

6:30 AM

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
"Walk at Home" - 3 miles
With Leslie Sansone

Tuesday and Thursday
"Punch, Kick &
Jam" (TurboSculpt)
With Chalene Johnson

6:30 PM

Monday, Tuesday,
And Thursday

Various exercise
routines focusing
mainly on strength
training.

*Radical Hospitality***ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER**

Sunday, February 22, 2009
5:00—7:00 pm.
Church Fellowship Hall

Serving:

Chili
 Chicken Noodle Soup
 Pies and Relishes

A sign up sheet will appear in the library for donations of ingredients, pies and relishes and for volunteers to work during the supper.

Noodlemaking

Thursday
February 19th

beginning at 9:30 am.
 in the church Kitchen

All are welcome to help.

Sponsored by
 U. M. Women

**IN THE MAIL**

Thank you to everyone for all the prayers, cards and other acts of kindness given to me and Ken. After six months and 2 weeks I am in remission. Thank you all so much.

Jackie Grosseohme

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Megan Comstock
Jenny Eitzmann | 12. Devin Eitzmann
Michele (Drake) Smith | 22. Allan Casey |
| 2. Katie Borgan | 13. Randy Perry, Jr.
Brenda (Black) Verkuilen | 23. Carter Hamann
Debbie Meyer |
| 4. Dallas McMann | Linda Weiner | 24. Dennis Ehmke |
| 5. Brent Meyer | Mark Winder | 25. Russ Eitzmann |
| 6. Sherry Black
Richard Clopton
Marty Fattig | Ardith Winger | 26. Kerri Comstock |
| 7. Harriet Kerl | 15. Fred Richart | 27. Alex Chubick
Linda Warren |
| 8. Julie North | 16. Lee Conner
Mildred Meyer | |
| 9. Shelby Bennett
Lori Henderson
John Mayfield | 17. Lindsey (Hemmingsen) Finken
Jeff LaPlant
Carol Richart | |
| 10. Duane Weiner | 18. Brent Cole | |
| | 20. Arlene Whisler | |

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

*Gracious Generosity***MISSION SHARE—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND**

Observing the progression of United Methodist history—and helping people to discover it—is the passion of L. Dale Patterson, longtime archivist and records administrator for the General Commission on Archives and History.

What amazes me most about the people who contact us," he says, "is the breadth—high school students, local church historians, per-

sons involved in social concerns, worship leaders, architects and, of course, researchers. Some ask basic questions like: Why do we call our ministers 'elders'? Or what did John Wesley think and do about such and such an issue? Others are professional researchers who take the time and effort to dig deeper. Our calling is to keep a faithful witness."

Your congregation plays an important role in keeping United Methodist history alive when it pays its General Administration Fund apportionment 100 percent. And because of the support of United Methodists across the connection, you can benefit from the rich resources offered by the General Commission on Archives and History.

Source: umciving.org



FEBRUARY, 2009

First United Methodist
Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4th Sunday after Epiphany Communion Sunday Souper Bowl of Caring (special offering) Super Subs—Youth fundraiser	2 7:30 pm.—Green Team	3	4 1:30 pm.—U. M. Women 7:00 pm.—Missions Team	5	6	7
8 5th Sunday after Epiphany 2:00 pm. Easter Cantata Rehearsal	9	10	11 7:00 pm.—VIM Haiti Planning & Information	12	13	14 
15 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am. Blood Pressure Screening	16	17	18 8:30 am.—UMW Book Study at Darlings	19	20	21
22 7th Sunday after Epiphany Newsletter Deadline 2 pm.—Cantata Rehearsal 5-7 pm.—Soup Supper at Ne. County 4-H Building	23	24	25  7 pm.—Worship	27 5:30 pm.—DUMP at Wheeler Inn	27 9:30 am. Assemble Newsletter	28 7:30 am. U. M. Men at Family Connection

Weekly Activities

Sun.
8:30 Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
Mon.
10:00 Prayer Shawl Knitting & Crocheting

Tues.
9:30 Prayer & Share

Wed.
5:30 Spirit Wave Rehearsal
6:00 Scrabbooking & Spirituality
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:30 Youth Fellowship
8:00 Easter Cantata Rehearsal

Thurs.
8:30 Women's Bible Study w/ pastor
12:00 Brown Bag Study
8:00 A. A.

Fri.
6:30 Men's Morning Devotion
Sat.
8:00 A. A.

Fitness Group Meets:
Mon–Fri. at 6:30 am.
Mon, Tues, Thurs at 6:30 pm.

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

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

Office Hours
Mon.—Fri.
9:00—12:30
1:30—3:00

The Lamplighter

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