

THE LAMPLIGHTER

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



January, 2009

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

First of all, I want to thank those people who have served faithfully in a number of committees and work teams and are retiring from those positions. Your ministries have made our church faithful and hopeful!

Eileen Rhoads (worship), Dave Ramsey (ch.) Nate Beger and Bobette Guenther (Trustees) Cliff Rhoades, Marlene North (Memorials), Cindy Glenn and Kathy Reiersen ((Staff Parish Relations)

I ask you to personally thank those listed here. They have been responsible and compassionate in carrying out their responsibilities; they deserve all our thanks.

Second, our congregation could not function without all the many people who volunteer in our committees. I hope you will consider being part of the many ministries of this congregation as new opportunities become available. Look for these new ministries and opportunities in the coming months.

Third, "thank you!" to all of you who have lifted up the many missions of this congregation in your prayers and with your financial gifts.

Fourth, we are moving into a new year with hopes and dreams for the future of spreading the love of God. I ask you to continue your prayers for all of the leaders we have, and to continue your financial

undergirding of our ministries. These ministries continue to make a difference in our community and to our brothers and sisters farther away.

And I ask for your prayers, too. I am fortunate to be pastor of this congregation, and look forward to the traditional and creative ways we serve God together.

See you in church!

--Fred

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Six Signs of Discipleship

Connectional Joy & Commitment	p. 6
Gracious Generosity	p. 5
Heartwarming Worship	p. 2
Radical Hospitality	p. 3
Risk Taking Mission and Justice Ministries	p. 4
Vital Faith Formation and Prayer	p. 2

Heartwarming Worship

EASTER CANTATA

The date is set: March 29, 2009. A search is underway for the music and an order will be placed shortly. All we need are the singers.

Rehearsals for the Easter Cantata will begin on Wednesday, January 28th at 8:00 pm. They will continue each Wednesday evening (with the exception of Ash Wednesday, February 25th) through March 25th. We will also schedule two



Sunday afternoon rehearsals in February and two in March for those who are not available on Sundays. A full schedule will be made available at the first rehearsal.

We would hope that all who are a part of the choir would participate. However, more voices are needed. We extend an invitation to all who enjoy singing to join with us. We will also be asking singers from

other churches. If you would like to join with us, please attend the first rehearsal, or contact Teresa Fletcher with questions or concerns.

Volunteers will also be welcome to help with narration, set up, publicity and other tasks. Please call me if you can help.

Teresa
274-3329 or 414-1215
dfletcher@neb.rr.com

LENTEN DEVOTION BOOK

Advent and Christmas are behind us, we are currently in the season of Epiphany and now we look ahead and plan for Lent and Easter.

Part of the preparation is planning for the eighth Lenten Devotional Book written by persons of this congregation. The sign up sheets will be available in the church library in January.

The book is based on the style of *The Upper Room* daily devotional. The scriptures selected relate to an encounter with Jesus in some way. You

select which one you would like to use to guide your thoughts. Write the meditation and *please be sure to add a prayer and "thought for the day."*

The Lenten season begins February 25th, which means the books need to be completed and mailed by the 20th. The deadline for submitting devotions is February 9th to allow time for formatting and editing.

If you have written consider doing it again. New writers are needed. We will be glad to help.

BROWN BAG STUDY

The Brown Bag study will resume on Thursday, January 8 at 12 noon. All are welcome to join us on their lunch hour. We will meet first to discuss and decide on a new book for the group. In the meantime, we will use The Upper Room devotions as a starting point for discussion.

A possible book selection for us is "Remarkable Women of the Bible: and Their Message for Your Life Today" by Elizabeth George. If you have other suggestions, bring them on the 8th.

Vital Faith Formation and Prayer

FAITH FORMATION TEAM

This committee has not met recently, however it is time to work on a few things.

- There will be a **Safe Sanctuary training** on Jan 10 @ 9:00 am. Please let the office (274-3329) or me know if you plan to attend.

- There is an **arts festival** for 6-8 graders on Jan 17 in Omaha. Contact me for more information.
- The youth are working on some **drama skits** to perform during services. Thanks to all that are supporting this.

- This **committee will meet Jan 7 at 7pm**. Thanks for your support.

Amy Conner
274-4663

PRAYER CHAIN ON-LINE

The First United Methodist Church Prayer Chain is a group of members who are willing to add your needs, cares and concerns to their own personal prayers.

If you have a request for the church's prayer chain, please contact the church office at (402) 274-3329 or auburnumc@windstream.net during regular office hours (9am-3 pm, Monday through Friday). An e-mail will be sent to the prayer chain and as they receive it they will begin adding your re-

quest to their personal prayers. Your prayer requests will only be sent to those on the prayer chain.

There are also prayer chain members who have agreed to be contacted after office hours. You may call or e-mail any member listed below and receive the same care.

- Trudy Peaslee—
grammyboo3@gmail.com,
274-4536

- Arlene Whisler—
aw03712@alltel.net,
274-4846
- Ardith Winger—
awininger@neb.rr.com,
274-7634
- Midge Mason—274-4257
- Carol Ehmke—
carolehmke@hotmail.com
- Susan Kruse—
SusanKruse07@yahoo.com

Please remember to contact the church office (274-3329) or Pastor Fred (402-659-5797) directly if you need pastoral care.

Radical Hospitality

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2. Cassidy Zaruba
- 4. Leslie Fattig
Brandon Lavigne
- 5. William McLaughlin
- 8. Bev Coatney
- 11. Doris Moore
- 12. Deb Knopik
- 14. Kathy Reierison
Laurie Schulte
- 15. Jim McCoy
Leann McNerny
- 16. Whitney Farris
- 17. Audre Blankenship
Jenn Ehmke
Mary Ensz
Mel Sandau

- 18. Rick Eitzmann
- 20. Sally Bantz
Kristy Garver
Bob Lowrey
Midge Mason
- 22. Joe Allison
Kari Borgan
Ken Burgert
Alex Hekenewerth
- 23. Joellen Hamann
Norma Loew
- 25. Tess Crotty
- 27. Reese Whisler
Suzanne Whisler
- 28. Caleb Fossenbarger
- 29. Mike Ramsey

- 30. Jessica Hogueison
- 31. Cindy Cole
Lauren Fletcher

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



HAPPENINGS

Deaths

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Lucy Mae Johnson**. Lucy Mae passed away on November 30, 2008. Services were held on December 3rd at First UMC with the Rev. Fred Richart officiating.

We offer our deepest condolences to the family and friends of **Inez Steinheider**. Graveside services for Inez, who passed away November 30th, were held at Sheridan West cemetery on December 9th with the Rev.

New Member

We welcome **June Hinds** to the membership of First UMC. June transfers to us from the congregation of Ste. Thérèse United Church of Canada, Ste. Thérèse, Quebec.

IN THE MAIL

THANK YOU so much to the UMC Youth Group and my beloved choir for bringing me your special Christmas cheer. I am so blessed to be a part of such a loving, caring church family. May God bless each and every one of you.

Jeannine

Thank You all very much for the care package. I really like everything that was put in it. It was very nice of you to think of me even when I am gone. Thank You again.

Love,
Krista Torres

TRULYWED

The Trulywed Game is an event held annually at the church. It is scheduled around Valentines Day. A game show featuring some of the church couples is held. If you are last years "winners" or "losers", please contact the church office to schedule the 2009 event.

Risk Taking Mission and Justice Ministry

GARDEN PROJECT



When's the best time to plant a garden? It's true that in January we can't get into the garden to turn the earth and plant the

seed, but we can broadcast our plans, needs and wishes for the gardening project.

We currently have a little over an acre just outside the city

limits, one city lot and another back yard for community gardens. We are meeting to discover our vision for the project, design a job description for a master gardener to oversee the whole project, a covenant between the church and the garden users, and a presentation for educating church and community groups about the project.

We are currently recruiting woodworkers to make trellises for vining fruits and vegetables and seed starters. We will also

be in need of monetary donations to help offset the cost of lumber for raised gardens and seeds. If you can help in any way or have questions or concerns, please contact Teresa at 274-3329 or 414-1215.

The Green Team will hold a contest early this year to name the gardens. April 19 is the "Festival of God's Creation". A special service will be held to dedicate the ground and announce the winning name of the gardens.

GREEN TEAM

Scrap Tire Clean-up Day

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Nemaha will be hosting a scrap tire clean-up event on Saturday, January 10, 2009 at the District 2 County Road Department, 1619 27th St., Auburn from 8 am—12 noon. The clean-up is open to all Nemaha County individuals (not business who collect a fee for scrap tires). All tires must be off rims.

Contact Dave Fletcher (274-7039) if you have used tires to dispose of, but are not available to take them to the drop off location that day. Dave will arrange to pick up your used tires for disposal.



Remember the SENCA Grocery Cart in the church library.

Donations of non-perishable food and paper items are collected and given to the SENCA food pantry. Remember items that area always in need: diapers, formula, and health and beauty products.



Gracious Generosity

RE-GIFT TO THE CHURCH

The church is looking for table decorations to use when decorating downstairs for breakfasts and other events. As you are putting away your Christmas

decorations and decide that you do not want some of them, consider donating them to the church for us to use for receptions. A



tote will be placed upstairs in the south entry during the month of January for your donations.

MISSION SHARE—EPISCOPAL FUND

A Voice for the Voiceless

Unspeakable violence in the Philippines has gone unnoticed by much of the world, but United Methodist Bishop Beverly Shamana of the California-Nevada Conference is trying to change that. She gathered with other clergy in March 2007 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sacramento, Calif., for a World Day of Prayer service to call attention to human rights violations in the Philippines. In the past five years, more than 800 people have been killed, includ-

ing many clergy—among them, a United Methodist pastor.

In February 2007, Bishop Shamana traveled with 17 United Methodists from South Hayward (Calif.) United Methodist Church as part of a 10-day fact-finding mission in the Philippines. Although many people in that country are afraid to speak out in fear of their lives, some walked for hours to speak with the team about the torture and killings.

"Our representatives and many communities who care simply don't know [about the

atrocities], so it is up to us to get the word out, get people educated, get them moving," Bishop Shamana asserts.

By helping to lead The United Methodist Church in its mission throughout the world, Bishop Shamana gives a voice to the voiceless.

Through the Episcopal Fund, one of United Methodism's seven apportioned funds, your congregation supports the vital work of United Methodist bishops like Beverly Shamana. Thank you!

HELP WANTED

Below is a list of volunteer positions that the church currently has vacant. If you can help in any way, please contact Pastor Fred or Teresa at 274-3329.

1. A person is needed to coordinate worship volunteers for the 8:30 service. This person will be responsible for finding people to serve as worship leaders, ushers and greeters.
2. Another volunteer is needed to coordinate communion.

Responsibilities include preparing the elements and coordinating volunteers to serve communion. Communion is currently served the first Sunday of each month at both 8:30 & 10:45 worship and at other special services.

3. A music librarian is needed to assist the choir. This person would prepare the music for rehearsals and file away past anthems. You may also be called on to make phone calls

to choir member on rare occasions. You do not have to be a member of the choir.



Connectional Joy and Commitment

MORNING FITNESS GROUP

The morning fitness group will resume meeting each Monday through Friday at **6:30 am**. We will meet at the church and depending on who is present and what the weather is like decide on that morning's activity, a workout featuring one of the ex-

ercise DVD's we have in our library or maybe just a walk around Auburn. Anyone is welcome to attend whenever you can. Most workouts are adaptable to any fitness level. You may wish to provide your own exercise mat. As always, please

check with your doctor before beginning any new exercise program.

The evening group continues each Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday at 6:30 pm. Contact Teresa, 414-1215 with questions.

UMW

January 7 1:30 pm.

Pledge Service

Program: Midge Mason
 Devotions: Eileen Rhoades
 Committee: Midge Mason
 Nancy Ramsey

Ladies Book Study
 Wednesday, January 21
 8:30 am.
 Darling's Cafe



DUMP—(Don't Underestimate My Pick of Restaurant), meets on the last Friday at 5:30 pm at area restaurants for fellowship and conversation. All are welcome - no reservation required. The next meeting is Jan. 23 at Arbor Manor.



HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY—JANUARY 18, 2009

"It is harder for the poor. The poor get poorer....It's harder because there are more needs, more diseases, more that have lost their jobs or their homes. It's getting so that elderly people on fixed incomes can hardly pay their bills. Sometimes they have to decide whether to buy food or their medicines," said Ms. Maudine Holloway, executive director, Community Enabler Developer, Inc., in Anniston, Alabama. Community Enabler Developer is a part of the Community Developers Program (CDP), an initiative administered by the General Board of Global Ministries for The United Methodist Church since 1972. The Community Developers Program gives seniors, children, teens, and any-

one in need, such as the residents of Anniston, a way to improve their social and economic situations through services and support.

As is the case with more than 40 United Methodist-related community development sites around the United States, Community Enabler Developer provides meals, classes, housing, and health advocacy. Anniston's Community Enabler center first began at Haven United Methodist Church and now operates out of its own building near the First United Methodist Church of Anniston.

Like other community developers across the nation, the Community Enabler has not had an easy time. "We ran out of

food four times this year—bare necessities, like bread and eggs," reported Holloway. In 2007, the Community Enabler center provided meals, clothing, and emergency supplies to 5,216 people. "We don't say you have to be Methodist or Baptist; we don't turn anybody away....," Holloway added.

Why do we celebrate this offering on the Sunday before the observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday? Because as United Methodists we believe in the development of better human relations and we seek to empower others to become the whole persons God intended.



JANUARY, 2009

First United Methodist Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Epiphany Sunday Communion Sunday	5	6	7 1:30—U. M. Women 7:00—Faith Formation Team	8 12 noon—Brown Bag Study resumes	9	10 8 am—Safe Sanctuary Training
11 1st Sunday after Epiphany	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Human Relations Day— Special Offering	19 M. L. King, Jr.'s Birthday Observance Office Closed	20	21 8:30 am.—UM Women Book Study at Darlings	22	23	24
Nebraska Annual Conference—Clergy Session January 20-22						
25 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Newsletter Deadline 3:00 pm. District Leadership Training	26	27	28 6:00 pm. Administrative Council 8:00 pm. Cantata Rehearsal	29	30 9:30 am. Assembly Newsletter 5:30 pm. DUMP	31 7:30 am. U. M. Men at Family Connection
Weekly Activities <u>Sun.</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship <u>Mon.</u> 10:00 Prayer Shawl Knitting & Crocheting <u>Tues.</u> 9:30 Prayer & Share <u>Wed.</u> 5:30 Spirit Wave Rehearsal 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Youth Fellowship <u>Thurs.</u> 12:00 Brown Bag Book Study 8:00 A. A. <u>Fri.</u> 6:30 Men's Morning Devotion <u>Sat.</u> 8:00 A. A. <u>Fitness Group Meets:</u> <u>Mon–Fri.</u> at 6:30 am. <u>Mon, Tues, Thurs</u> at 6:30 pm.						

Non-profit
Organization
Postage Paid
Permit No. 61

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

1205 "L" ST
Auburn NE 68305

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Lamplighter

(402)274-3329
Fax: (402) 274-3385
E-mail: aburnumc@alltel.net



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