

The Lamplighter

Living and Sharing...



January, 2010

Pastor's Paragraph

Thank You and Welcome!

Since July of 2008, I've had the joy and privilege of being pastor at the Auburn UMC. In that time, I've gained a sense of the incredible joys of small town American church life: honest joy, intense struggle for maturity, reaching out in new ways and ministries, and welcoming those around us. When asked to describe this congregation, the words "integrity" and "willing" come to mind.

This is mostly due to exceptional leadership. Churches do not simply become what they are: churches are led by people. So I want to personally say "thank you" to the extraordinary leaders of this congregation as they move on to other responsibilities, or take a brief break. Their strength of character is remarkable, noticeable, and is a wonderful sign of God's grace.

Thank you

Doug Glenn has chaired the council, Susan Kruse has offered spiritual maturity as lay leader, Marty Fattig has encouraged worship, Ken McCormick has brought stability and a breadth of knowledge, Harriet Kerl as kept the Memorials Committee organized, Tom Black has kept the church income structured and accounted for. To all these we say thanks for your many blessings and your gifts of time and talent.

Welcome

In January, 2010, we will be led by a new group, coming from the faithful: Laurie Schulte will chair the council, Marilyn Bath will become Lay Leader, Dan Snyder will chair worship, Carol Snyder will lead the Memorial's committee, and Carol Ehmke will keep track of all giving. These people have been asked to serve based on their gifts, abilities and the faith they hold for our congregation.

We all say thanks to those who have given their time and talent for the life of our congregation. We celebrate what God has done through them. We also look forward to continuing our important ministries even as we add new energy to them.

May God's blessings for this year and next be in all our lives and in all our actions!

Peace and Grace,
--Fred

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RETHINKCHURCH

Confirmation

VITAL FAITH FORMATION AND PRAYER

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

Confirmation Weekend

A weekend for all confirmands and parents is scheduled for January 8-10 at Camp Fontanelle. This event is to kickoff Confirmation classes for 6-8th graders.

Those attending should bring pillows, blankets, sheets, towels, soap, washcloths and

personal care items. We will be staying in dorms which are split between male and female.

The price is \$51 per person each night—meals are included. We will arrive about 7 pm on Friday and return home Sunday afternoon.

Make reservations with the church by

December 29th. We will need to take snacks for Friday night. Also, if you are interested in carpooling, let the office know that when you make your reservations.

Please contact Amy Conner with questions.

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

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.

Advent Book Study

The adult Sunday school class will begin a new study in January. The book is "Some Folks Feel the Rail, Others Just Get Wet," by James W. Moore.

Synopsis

This is another way of saying that some people smell the roses, while others just complain about the thorns. In his warm, conversational style, popular author

James W. Moore explores the reasons why some people are able to see our time on earth as a gracious gift from God rather than as an agonizing endurance test; and, simply put, why some people have the ability to celebrate life with an abundance of gratitude.

Each chapter in this book includes a reference to an important passage of Scripture, powerful stories and examples from

the lives of others, and practical suggestions for better daily living. Also included is a sixteen-page study guide for both individual and group use with questions related to each chapter.

Copies can be purchased Sunday mornings in the class that meets in the purple room upstairs at the end of the hall.

In the Mail

A heartfelt thank you to all who helped with the Scandinavian Brunch on December 6th. The donated coffee cakes and yeast breads were spectacular and a wonderful treat. The efforts of all were deeply appreciated.

Seventy-two attended the brunch and we wish to thank all for their generous donations. Proceeds will be given to the church's mission shares.

Dave & Virginia Pippert

Many fun events were held in December to raise funds for the church 2009 mission share giving and we would like to thank all who helped. Thank you to:

- Dave & Virginia Pippert and friends for the wonderful Scandanavian Brunch.
- Sally Smith and her helpers for the Cookie walk that was held on Saturday, December 12th.
- Marilyn Bath for opening her home for a holiday tea...even during a major snow event.
- Gina Long, Amy Conner, Lillian Summerlin and all who helped with the gift wrapping.
- All who donated items to the Silent Auction.

The church appreciates the efforts of all who have stepped up to help with our mission share responsibilities.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

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

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
- 16. Whitney Farris
- 17. Audre Blankenship
Jenn Ehmke
Mary Ensz
Mel Sandau

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

- 31. Cindy Cole
Lauren Fletcher

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



Happenings

Deaths

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of **Mildred Meyer**. Mildred passed away on November 26, 2009. Funeral services were held on November 30th at First UMC with Dr. Fred Richart officiating.

New Member

We welcome back into the membership, **Peggy KühI**. After moving back to Auburn, Peggy returns to First UMC from St. Mark's UMC in Lincoln, Nebraska.



January/
February, 2010
Upper Room
and *Alive Now*
Devotionals are
available.

Pick up copies for yourself
and a friend.

Missing Addresses

The church is currently looking for addresses of members we have lost track of. Most missing addresses are twenty-something's who have begun their adult lives or college students who are living on or off campus.

We would like to continue

communicating with these members. Do you have and address for any of the following?:

Kathy (Bysfield) Adams
Caitlain Bantam
Brent Cole
Whitney Farris

Jordan Garver
Jacy Garver
Walter & Lynette McCrosky
Erin (Bantam) Noland
Matt Ramsey
Reese Whisler
Trenton Whisler

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

Mile of Pennies Collection For



Total through December: \$ 587.78

Amount needed: \$ 844.80

Green Team

We are all aware that turning off the water while brushing our teeth or installing a low flow shower head are sensible ways to conserve water. However, we may not be aware of how big an impact these small steps may be taking. The following are a couple of ways we can make a big impact with very little effort required.

Bring Your Water With You

Why it's worth the effort:

Each one-liter plastic bottle takes seven liters of water to produce. Refilling your own bottle directs the water where it's needed—into your body.

Your one-year effect: 577

gallons of water saved.

The effect if everyone in the U.S. did it for one year: Equal to the amount of water that would cover Washington, D.C., by 52 feet.

Buy Recycled-Paper Products

Why it's worth the effort:

Products made from 100 percent recycled paper require much less water in their manufacturing than do those made from virgin paper. If your family goes through four rolls of paper towels a week, choosing recycled reduces waste significantly.

Your one-year effect: 637 gallons of water saved.

The effect if every household in the U.S. did it for one year: More than the amount of water that cascades over Niagara Falls in a day.



January 2010 Order Schedule

Orders taken Jan. 3-9

Delivery on January 14

To view catalog

www.nebraskafood.org/shop

E-mail order to Deb at

aumccoop@gmail.com

SENCA Food Pantry

Oooh baby it's cold outside! Your donations to the shopping cart in the library help provide meals and other necessary items to families in need in Nemaha County. This month consider items for cold winter nights.

Soup	Peanut Butter	Jelly
Crackers	Chile Beans	Canned Tomatoes



Music Update

Sanctuary Choir

Jan. 3 No Choir
 Jan 10 8:30 & 10:45
 "Be Present Spirit of the Lord"
 Teresa Fletcher directing
 Jan 17 10:45
 Carol Ehmke directing
 Jan 24 8:30 & 10:45
 "Family of Faith"
 Teresa Fletcher directing

Spirit Wave

The groups first CD titled, "Spirit Wave" are available for sale from the church office. Signed copies can be arranged. Each CD cost \$15.00 and 10% of each sale will be given to the church for mission share giving.

The group is also willing to schedule performances at community groups and other church's. All we would ask is that we can bring CD's to sell. Contact Teresa (414-1215) if you are interested in having the group at your next meeting.



HEARTWARMING WORSHIP

"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

U. M. Women

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)

January Meeting

January 6 1:30 pm
 Pledge Service

Program Midge Mason
 Devotions Eileen Rhoades
 Committee Midge Mason
 Linda Warren

Morning Book Study

January 20 8:30 am

Family Connection
 (new location)



Nemaha County Gives Back

Third Annual Nemaha County Gives Back Raised over \$17,200

The Nemaha County Gives Back festival was held Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6th and it was a huge success! There were over 400 people that attended during the 2-day event. Bobette Guenther is excited to report that the event raised over **\$17,200**.

The money will be used to help provide food baskets, toys, gifts, and clothing for the SENCA clients, SENDS clients, the elderly, disabled and challenged in Nemaha County. Nemaha County Gives Back will also be recognizing a challenge in our community by offering a heartfelt hand to the Armstrong Employees and their families. With all the proceeds from the festival, we, as a community, will be reaching out to over 500 families/individuals during this holiday season.

The committee's focus was "to provide an avenue to bring the community together in a welcoming and inclusive way, to enjoy the beauty and meaning of Christmas and the Winter season with a

dinner, fellowship and entertainment, while sincerely considering needs and people with challenges in our community and addressing them with a humble and loving manner." Our motto is: "When working together, we can all make a difference."

A Christmas tree and wreath auction was held both nights. The trees were all decorated by local civic organizations and individuals/groups decorated the wreaths. It was amazing to see all the creativity that developed in the decorating of the trees, wreaths, and wall hangings. 8 of the Christmas trees and 4 Christmas wreaths were donated back to needy families. Marv & Mark Caspers conducted the auction on Saturday night while Mark Caspers conducted the auction Sunday night.

Robert Lowrey and Bobette Guenther were the chairpersons for the event. An important portion of the event was to recognize the military men and women who serve our country and are away from family at Christmas. The past month, pictures and brief

information were collected from family members. There were 16 military men and women that were recognized and many of the family members were among the attendance one of the evenings. A special bulletin board was made up with pictures and information about the individual and was on display during the event. Mandy Hall Photography made a DVD that was played during the event with all the military pictures and information on it as well. Now the bulletin board will travel to different businesses during the holiday. If your business would like to display the military board as we support our troops, please contact Bobette at 274-8919.

Dale Thomas closed the both nights singing "God Bless the USA" and followed up with everyone singing "Silent Night" in recognition of all our military people.

Bobette Guenther, Bob Lowrey and the NCGB Committee would like to give a big "Thank You" to all who participated in the event.

Bobette Guenther and Bob Lowrey wish to say, "Thanks to all. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

Fellowship Groups

DUMP

Don't Underestimate My Pick (of Restaurant) is a dinner fellowship group that meets every 4th Friday at a local restaurant. The group meets at the restaurant (if in Auburn) or the church (if carpooling out of town) at 5:30 pm. All are welcome.

January 2010 DUMP Location

Wheeler Inn

Hwy 75, Auburn

United Methodist Youth

Meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm at the church. All youth in grades 7-12 are

welcome. Wednesday meetings are for fellowship and planning. During January the youth will be sell "Super Subs for the Super Bowl". Place your sub orders this month and they will be delivered to you on Sunday, February 7th in time for the big game.

Mission Share Update

Do Good

In summary, it takes strong, focused leadership to “Do Good.” To live in Christ-like fashion, to do the will of God, to wrestle with the big issues of the day, are challenging mandates for our faith journey. The Nebraska United Methodist Conference is revitalizing its ministry to help equip local congregations to embrace the opportunities before them.

The total Funding Plan request is \$7,286,141, the same as the 2009 approved Funding Plan. In a troubled economy it’s easy to say, “cut the Funding Plan.” Equally as

real in hard times is the need for more ministry. In what is clearly one of the first truly worldwide recessions, those who are the “least of us” are even more vulnerable. In these times, The United Methodist Church stands out as a beacon of hope. The United Methodist Church has always been focused on how it can “Do Good” in its local towns and communities as well as around the world.

Take pride in the work the church is doing to move ever closer to realizing God’s Kingdom here on earth.

GRACIOUS GENEROSITY

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

Human Relations Sunday—January 17, 2010

The road has been bumpy, but God has always been with me. There have been times when I could not meet the physical need, but never a time I could not meet the need to show God’s love.”

Meet Maudine Holloway, community developer in Anniston, Ala., for 37 years! If you ever wonder if your Human Relations Day offering makes any difference, listen to this remarkable woman.

“Come with me to the homeless living under the bridge or in condemned houses, the elderly trying to live on \$250 per month, the children left with relatives, people who cannot afford medication or to see the doctor, persons with AIDS,” she says. “We are, for many, the

only sparks of light that give hope.”

Holloway addresses many needs: hunger, poverty, health issues, homelessness, living without water or heat. She often works with children she calls “pass-ons.” She explains, “They are passed on to grandparents or great-grandparents or to the system.”

The Human Relations Day offering is a huge blessing, Holloway asserts. “With God’s infinite wisdom, our budget has grown. We have one center in Anniston and one in Hobson City.” Area churches provide financial support, volunteers and food.

“The greatest investment we can make as Christians is in the lives of God’s forgotten

children,” Holloway adds. “These are critical times for the church to be alive in the community. We are trying to help people see Jesus. I am so grateful for the opportunity to tell the story of God’s love every day.”

Holloway hopes that even in tough economic times, United Methodists will not forget Human Relations Day, and her ministry that serves more than 5,000 of God’s children every year.



Funeral Lunches

It has been the custom of our church to offer to serve a lunch to our families who have had a death. This lunch consists of sandwiches, salads, cake, chips and a drink. We feel this is a very necessary ministry of our church. Committee co-chairs are to call their committee; ask for the food. Remind them that they are responsible for picking up their dishes in which the food is brought. The

committee is also responsible for setting up extra tables if needed. Please check closely to see that the Fellowship Hall is left as you found it [or better].

Funeral Luncheon Chairs are:

Midge Mason 274-4257 and
Anna Belle Redfern 274-4274

1. Co-Chairpersons: Sally Smith (274-4621) and Laurie Schulte (274-4533)

Bantam, Jolene	274-3490
Bourn, Doris	274-3208
Clark, Lonnie	274-3028
Coatney, Bev	872-6195
Ellis, Donna	274-5237
Harper, Judy	274-3287
Jones, Linda	274-3519
Knopik, Deb	274-4633
Lavigne, Crystal	274-4239
Luzmann, Pat	274-3762
Brady, Patti	
Snyder, Carol	274-5120
Torres, Shirley	274-5315

2. Co-Chairperson: Nancy Ramsey (274-5088) & Harriet Kerl (274-5438)

Beger, Kim	274-4427
Burgert, Grace	242-2461
Comstock, Kim	274-4499
Conner, Amy	274-4663
Farris, Kris	274-3636
Fuller, Nancy	274-4453
Kruse, Susan	274-3303
Peaslee, Trudy	274-4536
Pippert, Virginia	274-4813
Stuart, Margaret	274-4083
West, Evelyn	274-5056
Whisler, Suzanne	274-4784
Yager, Joline	274-2456

3. Co-Chairpersons: Cindy Glenn (274-3998) and Trudy Peaslee (274-4536)

Allison, Pam	274-4187
Borgan, Debra	274-4870
Choate, Sue	274-2400
Custer, Michelle	414-5123
Fletcher, Teresa	414-1215
Heskett, Evelyn	274-5808
Mason, Midge	274-4257
McMann, Judy	274-3955
Richart, Carol (order veggie tray and send bill)	

Sears, Laurel	274-5426
Whisler, Juanita	414-1582
Winger, Ardith	274-7634

4. Co-Chairpersons: Sherry Black (274-4365) & Audre Blankenship (274-3848)

Bright, Mildred	274-5666
Chase, Tammy	274-5474
Crotty, Jeannine	274-3048
Dingman, Jean	274-2456
Krause, Julie	274-3789
Pegler, Sabra	274-3970
Randolph, Sharon	274-4182
Randolph, Teresa	274-4182
Reierson, Kathy	274-4767
Stough, Susan	274-2656
Weiner, Linda	274-5305
Zaruba, Stacy	274-5154

5. Co-Chairpersons: Helen Casey (868-5050) & Jan McCormick (274-3617)

Aue, Linda	274-2633
Aue, Rhonda	274-5782
Epperson, LaVerne	274-3864
Garver, Kristy	274-4290
Snyder, Mary	274-4475
Hathaway, Tricia	274-3427
Lynch, Mary	274-3374
Moore, Doris	274-3403
Peterson, Nancy	274-5471
Summerlin, Lillian	274-3051
Thomas, Mavis	274-3669

6. Co-Chairpersons: Phyllis Hemmingsen (274-3067) & Linda Warren (402 740-8875)

Beard, Louan	274-5084
Ensz, Kathy	274-3641
Fossenbarger, Laura Lea	868-6912
Goering, Marcia	274-5234
Grossoehme, Jackie	274-4184
Guenther, Bobette	274-4189
Hathaway, Boni	274-3104
Lowrey, Judy	274-5498
Meyer, Debbie	274-4099
Nichols, Helen	868-4215

North, Julie	274-3448
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7. Co-Chairpersons: Kathy Grant (274-4670) & Jean Larsen (274-3507)

Bennett, Angela	274-4281
Cole, Cindy	274-4133
Drake, Shirley	274-3317
Grant, Megin	274-3505
Heronimus, Dorrie	274-3495
Johnson, Peggy	274-3954
Grafton, JoAnn	274-4078
Haneline, Beth	868-3905
Long, Peggy	872-5935
Lynch, Barbara	274-4535
Myers, Marcia	274-4145
North, Marlene	274-3441
Wheeler, Jackie	274-4573

8. Co-Chairpersons: Marilyn Bath (274-5607) & Shannon Stemm (274-4497)

Bantz, Sally	274-5856
Behrends, Ardis	274-3383
Chubick, Dee	274-4286
Clopton, Deb	274-4195
Hamann, Joellen	274-4664
Lavigne, Sally	274-4174
Mayfield, Sheila	274-5070
Oden, Chris	274-5487
Redfern, AnnaBelle	274-4274
Rhoades, Eileen	274-3459
Whisler, Arlene	274-4846

9. Co-Chairpersons: Marilyn Schneider (274-4467) & Ruth Chrisp (274-3957)

Comstock, Mary	274-5344
Ehmke, Carol	274-5486
Hansen, Orlah	274-5142
Hemmingsen, Carol	274-5537
Kistner, Sonia	274-5262
Kuhl, Peggy	402 890-2007
Loew, Norma	274-3473
Long, Gina	274-3620
Sandau, Gerry	274-4588
Shenefelt, Kay	274-4630
Walker, Teresa	825-6178

January, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> Communion Sunday	4 10 am—Prayer Shawl Knitting and Crocheting	5 9:30—Prayer and Share	6 1:30 am—UMW 5:30 pm—Spirit Wave 7:00 pm.—Youth Fellowship 7:00 pm.— Sanctuary Choir	7 9:30 am—Bible Study with the Pastor 12 noon—Brown Bag Study 8 pm.—A. A.	1 8	2 8 pm.—A. A. 9 8 pm.—A. A.
10 <i>1st Sunday after Epiphany</i>	11 10 am—Prayer Shawl Knitting and Crocheting	12 9:30—Prayer and Share	13 5:30 pm—Spirit Wave 7:00 pm.—Youth Fellowship 7:00 pm.— Sanctuary Choir	14 9:30 am—Bible Study with the Pastor 12 noon—Brown Bag Study 8 pm.—A. A.	15	16 8 pm.—A. A.
17 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> Human Relations Day—Special Offering taken 9:30—Blood Pressure Screening	18 MLK Jr. Birthday observance— office closed 10 am—Prayer Shawl Knitting and Crocheting	19 9:30—Prayer and Share 6:30 pm. SPRC	20 8:30 am—Ladie's Book Study (Family Connction) 5:30 pm—Spirit Wave 7:00 pm.—Youth Fellowship 7:00 pm.—Sanctuary Choir	21 9:30 am—Bible Study with the Pastor 12 noon—Brown Bag Study 8 pm.—A. A.	22 5:30 pm. DUMP at Wheeler Inn	23 8 pm.—A. A.
24 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> Newsletter Deadline	25 10 am—Prayer Shawl Knitting and Crocheting	26 9:30—Prayer and Share	27 5:30 pm—Spirit Wave 7:00 pm.—Youth Fellowship 7:00 pm.— Sanctuary Choir	28 9:30 am—Bible Study with the Pastor 12 noon—Brown Bag Study 8 pm.—A. A.	29 9:30 am— Assemble Newsletter	30 8 pm.—A. A.
31 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i>						

Sunday Worship
8:30 & 10:45 am
Sunday School for all ages
9:30 am

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

Auburn First United Methodist Church

Presiding Bishop, Rev. Ann Brookshire Sherer

District Superintendent, Rev. Randy Sailors

Pastor, Dr. Frederick Richart

Secretary, Teresa Fletcher

January, 2010



We're on the Web

www.auburnneumc.com

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First United Methodist Church

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