

First Word

Volume 11, Issue 9

September 2011

Faith United Methodist Church
1950 SW Eagles Parkway
Grain Valley, MO 64029
847-0008

www.gvfaithumc.org

Living for Jesus
FAITH at Work

Pastor
David Hackett

Sunday Worship
8:15 a.m.
10:45 a.m.

Sunday school
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening
7th-12th grade Youth Group
5:30 pm

Monday
1:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Logos Children's Program
K-5th grade Sept- April

Follow
Answer his call
Invite others to his fellowship
Teach the word
Honor Him

Articles for Newsletter need to be submitted to
Pastor or Karla by
Wednesday September 28th.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

Receive Newsletter by email
kparkhurst3@comcast.net Thanks! Karla Parkhurst

FAITH NOTES

Dear Faithful Friends,

I know it is hard to believe but September is here and while we will yet have several weeks of warm weather, the nights will quickly begin to be a little cooler, the days a little shorter and the dark will take a little longer to dispel with the sunrise. The seasons are changing and it will quickly be harvest time and jacket weather.

September also means that we gear up with new activities at church as well. Logos begins in September. The choir begins rehearsals. A new confirmation class begins. Two new offerings that are being planned but have not been calendared yet are "leader learnings", a monthly book study for those who want to know more and do more as local church leaders. This group will be taught by Pastor Dave and Pastor Sam Fisher, Pastor of 1st UMC of Odessa. We hope this group will include 10-12 folks from both churches. We have not yet established the reading list or meeting time but anticipate that we will have or initial meeting during the last week of the month. A 2nd learning opportunity will be offered by Pastor Dave and wife Patty called "the Second Half". It is expressly designed for those in the 2nd half of life and the 2nd half of marriage. It is a video-based, discussion orient group. This will be a 6 week class. A date for beginning has not yet been determined. Stay tuned for details.

The UMW sponsored "Apple Butter" day is to be commended and supported. Again the ladies have decided to donate their entire earnings to support the work of the Grain Valley Assistance Council. I know that those funds will make someone's life easier this winter.

Dr. Hightower and the finance team are beginning to work on the church budget for next year. There has never been a year during my term as your Pastor that we have not met and exceeded the budget requirements. We have paid apportionments in full. We have been generous in our support of other ministries. We have offered aid and comfort to those around us who are on hard times. We have aggressively paid down our debt on our building. In 5 years we have reduced the term of our indebtedness from 25 years of debt to less than 15 years. You are to be commended for your generosity. I have no reason to believe that we will not continue to do so.

Our programming needs are growing and so is our need for space and help. We have wonderful volunteers, but I must confess that I am very grateful for the wisdom of our Staff-Parish Committee for hiring an Office Administrator. I am confident that we will see improved organization and I will have time for new plans and programs. The position is currently 20 hours per week but we hope to expand it to 30 hours in 2012 with your support.

In the very near future we will have other needs. Our continued growth and program development will probably mean that we will need to add more custodian and maintenance support. We believe that we will also need to aid a 3rd worship service, perhaps a contemporary service. This would not detract from what we are already doing, but would add another opportunity for worship to people who are attracted to a different style of worship. When we are ready for this new service, we will need more musicians and musicians who play a different type of music. At some point we will need to give careful consideration to expanding our building.

I say all of that to tell you how important your tithing and offering is. The more aggressively we pay down our existing debt, the quicker we will be able to do the "new thing" that God is expecting of us. The Bible reminds us that the fields are "white with harvest" and we need to prepare to be a part of that harvest. You have been so faithful in your service and yet there are yet those who have not been invited to walk with us.....there are those who have not yet heard the sound that is sweeter than music. We need to continue to prepare our voices to speak that sound...the sound of Jesus!

Thank you so much for the kindness that you exhibited to my lovely wife, Patty, when you celebrated her recent birthday. We love you all and are very grateful to be allowed the blessing of serving you in this season of our life.

We look forward to what God has yet to reveal to us.

God Bless You,
Pastor Dave

Calling All Prayer Warriors

The Women's Retreat planners are looking for some folks to pray for the gals coming to Faith in November. Each warrior will be given 5 names to pray for and write an encouraging note to that will be added to their welcome packet. Please contact Shawna Meierarend (Shawna.m@juno.com / 816-419-8886/ facebook) if you would like to be part of this vital team.

THANK YOU

Dear Pastor Dave and Faith UMC,

I want to thank you for your prayers and support. This place is hard indeed but I've been able to stay strong for the most part. For 90% of the cadets religion and faith is what keeps us going. Everyday we either look forward to church on Sunday or Chaplains time on Wednesday when we get to have a short sermon followed by cookies, cake and pop with as much as we can eat.

West Point really forces you to dig deep inside to see what you are made of and challenge yourself to be what you want to be. God has really blessed me and helped make it through some very difficult time from being tear gassed (which is awful) to being yelled at and smoked (extreme physical exercise until your entire body burns).

I ask you to tell everyone that I am OK and to keep me and my classmates in their prayers.

Thankfully,
Tyree Meadows!

Faith,

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. I need all the prayers I can get! I have been so blessed in my life to have a family of Faith driving me to and on the right path. So many names I could share that have helped me succeed in the past years. Thanks to all who have shown me love, compassion and the light of God along the way. Sincerely,
Chase Gabriel

Faith Family,

Thank you so much for the money! It will help me with all my college expenses! I love you all and thank you for everything!
Megan Kaldenberg

Faith,

When I count my blessings I always think of you because I couldn't be more grateful for the thoughtful things you do! Thank you for the prayer shawl and for all of the support the church has given me. It has helped to make me who I am today.

Love,
Ashley Manns

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Evangelism Committee, led by Rosalie Kolster, will meet on Monday evening, September 19 at 7 p.m. The meeting will include a discussion about the committee's activities in welcoming visitors to our congregation and presenting Faith UMC effectively to our community.

FOOTBALL HOSPITALITY

Faith UMC will be hosting the local high school football team for a pre-game meal on 5 Thursday evenings throughout the fall. The pre-game meal is a team building time for the new coach, his staff and the players. Because of the crowded conditions in the school district buildings, the athletic staff has asked Faith to provide space for this activity. We are glad to be of service. On Thursday evening from 5-7:30 p.m., September 15 & 22 and October 6, 13, & 20, we will set up our sanctuary with tables and chairs to accommodate an evening meal for the 80+ players and coaching staff. The school district will be providing the meal.

If you would like to assist with this project, we will need help setting up and tearing down the tables and chairs. We would also like to provide some form of table decoration and perhaps an appropriate something for the players. Got ideas or time to help, please contact the Pastor.

YOUTHEOLOGY

Hola, me llamo Kelsey Parkhurst. I'm finally a senior in high school and I've been a part of this church family since I was in elementary school. Without your support and God's I wouldn't be the person I am today. I was able to go to Kansas City this summer to the Saint Paul School of Theology. There, I took part in a group of ten or more kids across the states and their mentors, including my own Cathy Sanderson. Cathy and I got to share a weekend together learning more about our Methodist heritage and did various mission projects. It was a blessing to go on this weekend trip because it changed my perspective on how I view life and various situations. The main topic for the weekend was "Love Thy Neighbor" and I really took a lot from this session and applied it to my everyday life. The people I interacted with were amazing, God couldn't have picked better people to share a weekend together. We all worked and got along with each other so well it's almost like we have always known one another.

Once again I thank you for the support and allowing me to be able to do this with my amazing mentor!! I can't wait to go back in March and experience it all again! I'll be sure to keep you updated! ☺
Love, Kelsey

YOUNG @ HEART

Faith UMC and the Young @ Heart group will meet for potluck luncheon on Thursday, September 15 at 11:30 a.m. The program will include a highly competitive series of Bingo games. Hope to see you there.

Collecting Items for Shoeboxes

We are nearing our packing party (Saturday, November 12th) and are reaching toward a larger goal than ever before! We are still collecting: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, washcloths, combs, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights, and notes with your address.

The children may write us back! Thank you for helping us reach more children with the love of Jesus!

Operation Christmas Child Kick Off

On Thursday, September 22, Noland Road Baptist Church in Independence will be hosting a 'kick off party' for Operation Christmas Child. Hear Daniel and Melinda Kumar from the island of Trinidad tell first-hand accounts of how simple shoe box gifts are changing entire communities and starting children off on their Greatest Journey with Jesus Christ. RSVPs are needed; contact Shawna Meierarend if you are able to join her.

Digging Deeper

The youth Bible study group has concluded their study of the book of The Acts of the Apostles. They will begin a new study in the Book of John on Wednesday nights from 6pm-7:30pm coinciding with LOGOS. All youth grades 6 and up are welcome to join them in the church library. See Skye Clements or Shawna Meierarend for more info.

Friendships With Purpose

Faith UMC will be hosting a women's retreat on Saturday, November 5th, 8am-3:30pm. Come enjoy friendships, purpose, fellowship, encouragement, worship, and good food for your soul (and tummy)! Registration deadline is October 10th. Brochures with more information are on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

The Grain Valley Senior Citizen's will meet for lunch on Wednesday, September 7 at the Grain Valley Community Center. Lunch will be catered by the Grain Valley School District. Call the Community Center to reserve your place for this luncheon.

UMW: an Active Group

September 17, September 24, October 9, and November 6, 13, and 20 are dates that need to be put on your calendars.

The UMW will be sponsoring a Quilt Show, Saturday September 17th, 12:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. for the Festival of Sharing. These quilts are from Churches around the state and will be auctioned October 15th at Festival in Sedalia.

You are welcome to display your favorite quilt or quilts at the show, just bring to Church by 11:00 a.m. the 17th. Questions call 229-5214.

APPLE BUTTER

September 24 is the date set for this year's Apple Butter Days. Men, women and Children (older children) will be welcome to the back yard of Mary Strack, 32203 E. Ryan Rd., in South Grain Valley. The festivities begin at 7 a.m. There will be apple peeling and old fashion apple butter making. If you have never seen this done, you will enjoy watching the copper pots heating and the wood paddle stirring that results in a most delicious product.

Apple butter and apple sauce will be for sale at the church beginning Sunday, September 25. We sell out quickly and pre-orders will be accepted. The UMW is responsible for this project and have committed again this year to donate 100% of the proceeds to the Grain Valley Assistance Council to help the needy of our community. We commend the ladies for the continued care and concern for those who are struggling with the current economy.

If you would like to help with this project, just show up Saturday morning with your paring knife and a pan to put your apples in. Volunteers are also needed for stirring the butter and to help in canning the apple butter. Bring a covered dish to share at lunch time.

We still need a few items for our Apple Butter making including: 6-10# bags of sugar, 7-6 oz. packages of red hots.

TRUSTEES

Thank you to all that have helped paint the downstairs and enlarge the upstairs room. Without the volunteer help we wouldn't be able to do much of the work of the church.

The monthly meeting of the Trustees of Faith United Methodist Church will be on Monday evening, September 19 at 6 p.m.

PROJECT PATRICIA

Friday, September 30th, at 5:30.

Project Patricia had a fantastic night of sewing last time and we are so excited to sew again! We turned in our largest number of completed pads to date (500) which only makes us want to do more. Because of that, we are in need of raw material. We need your donations of towels and cotton sheets. Feel free to drop those by the church anytime labeled for Project Patricia. We also need you. If you can spare a few hours on September 16th to sew or cut, then there is an opportunity for you to help. If you have questions please contact Kim Howard at 847-2753.

VALLEY FAIR DAZE

2012 marks the 25th anniversary of Grain Valley's Valley Fair Daze celebration. Faith United Methodist has been active in most of those celebrations and this year will be no different. Carl Condra has been busy crafting a float to represent Faith in the Saturday morning parade. Please watch for that entry and let Carl know how pleased you are with his efforts. The church will again sponsor a booth in the Kid's Street portion of the fair. This booth will provide a free activity for children who come to the fair. It is being sponsored by Faith's Mother's Day Out and Pre-School program along with our Youth Group. Our Mission group will again be co-sponsoring (with CrossRoads Church) the Burger Barn. The proceeds from Burger Barn sales will be used in future mission projects. Please support the Burger Barn while you are at the Fair.

We are in need of volunteers for both of these activities which occur September 8-10 on the fairgrounds which will occupy Armstrong Park and the area behind the Grain Valley Community Center. If you have a few hours to help with either activity you can sign up at the church office or let Pastor Dave know of your availability.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

September Men's Breakfast will be Tuesday morning, September 20 at 8:30 a.m. We have now consumed all of the sausage patties left over from the Easter Sunrise breakfast. We consider this act of selflessness to be an act of charity. The menu will include some form of sausage (patties, links or gravy) that has no linkage to Easter, although we will give thanks to God for Easter. If you are curious about what kind of sausage will be presented for consumption, please be present. Open to all of the men of the church.

FAITH SERVES UPCOMING PROJECTS

The global ministry of United Methodist Churches has deemed the weekend of September 10-11 as a weekend to serve in remembrance of 9/11. There are a few different opportunities for you to volunteer this weekend and help make a difference in your community. The Grain Valley Fair is in town during this time and our church has committed to a few different events associated with the fair.

Kids Street - this is a street set up just for families and all events are free of charge. We will have a booth and need volunteers to help run it. Please contact Amy Hays if this is something you would be interested in - mamacomedy@sbcglobal.net

Burger Barn - Faith along with another local just will be flipping burgers to raise money for our youth and missions. If you enjoy flipping burgers and would like to donate your time please contact Jennifer Bell - Jenn096@yahoo.com

We really want to make this weekend a success for all the men and women of 9/11 so please get out there and serve!

The next event will be Friday October 14, 2011. We will be helping out Della Lamb by spending an evening wrapping presents for their Christmas present drive. Please join us at church at 6pm til all presents are wrapped. We will order pizza at a slight cost to be determined. Please feel free to bring the whole family and a dish to share. If you plan to bring smaller children that can't help please let me know and I will arrange for a sitter.

Finally Saturday October 22 we will be collaborating with Habitat for Humanity to help build a home for a deserving family. Please let me know if you would be interested and I will ensure to keep you up to date as more information is available on this project.

For more information or to sign up please contact Kim Compton 816-443-3363 or KGMSweet@msn.com

MEN'S BASKETBALL OPEN PLAY

Men's Basketball is back at Prairie Branch from 6-9pm on the following dates:

Aug 31, Sept 7,14,21

Oct 5,12,19, Nov 1,8,15,22

Dec 6,20, Jan 3,10,17,24,31

Feb 7,14,21

Question please contact Jason Compton

816-443-3363 or dairyman2k3@gmail.com

STAFF-PARISH COMMITTEE

The Staff-Parish Committee has the important task of supervising all employees of Faith United Methodist Church and evaluating their performance. The Staff-Parish Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 20 at 7 p.m. for the evaluative portion of their responsibility. Mary Harper chairs this committee. All members of this group are asked to be present to participate in this important function.

NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

The Staff-Parish Committee is very pleased to announce the hiring of a new office administrator to assist the Pastor and church family. Jean Weiner is a resident of Blue Springs and has been visiting Faith for some weeks. She is a life time Christian, raised in the Lutheran Church and a recent Methodist having attended Methodist Churches for the last 3 years. She was most recently a part of the new church start called the Beacon in East Independence.

Jean recently retired after a number of years serving as office manager for Old World Spices and Seasonings. She also has worked in a variety of positions as legal secretary, personnel manager, tax professional and more. She begins her new career with Faith following the Labor Day weekend. We hope that you will find time to welcome Jean and to thank her for the gift that she will be to our growing congregation.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The semi- monthly meeting of the Church Council will be held on September 26 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. The Church Council is chaired by Sarah Vaughan and is the chief governance vehicle of the church. All members of the church have voice in these meetings. All program chairs are reminded to be ready to report to the council of their activities and plans. The finance committee is preparing the budget for 2012 and are asking program areas to advise them about their plans and financial needs.

LOGOS

Another exciting year of Logos is coming soon. We will begin this year's program on Wednesday, September 28 from 6-7:30 p.m. Diane Walker and her crew are planning for another fun year and are looking forward to all kindergarten through 5th graders to be a part of our 11th year of Logos. For those unfamiliar with the program it includes Bible study, and evening meal, music and crafts. An exciting time is promised. See you in a few weeks.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Eric Gant
9/3 Mark Jeffrey
9/4 Bannon Carney
Norman Estep
9/5 Jessica Robb
Josh Gouldsmith
9/6 Barbara Nadeau
Ralph Shields
David Keeton
9/7 Doris Snyder
9/9 Gabriel Keeton
Rachel Thompson
9/10 Joan Fitzpatrick
Sara Howard
9/11 Bill Hardman
9/12 Caleb Sheesley
9/13 Jerry Vaughan
9/14 Carolyn Bloss
Teri Basinger
9/15 Denise White
Tom Hightower
9/16 Pam Newman
9/17 Kay Bult
9/17 Sean Willard
Cassidy Nadeau
9/18 Laney Bell
9/19 Rachel Thompson
9/20 Lori Gunderson
9/21 Mike Hackett
Spencer Meierarend
Christopher Meierarend
Megan Howard
9/22 Russell Conner Jones-Dyke
Riley Zimmerman
Doris Nugent
Kyle Brandes
9/23 Haley Porter
Debbie Strough
9/24 Garritt Shockey
Peyton Bell
9/25 Riley Roach
Samuel Cole
9/26 Holly Porter
9/28 David Dent
9/29 Seth Adams
Linda Gray
Bill Douthit

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/5 Bill and CharlieAnn Douthit
9/7 Crystal & Neal Seyfert
9/9 Jeff and Jody Wightman
9/11 Carol & Chuck Wright
9/14 Debbie & Wayne Neece
9/24 Lloyd & Judy Garrett
9/27 Kyla & Larry Gant
9/28 Kitty & David Snyder
Jim & Amy Caslavka
9/29 Paul & Penny Thurmon
9/30 Steve & Lisa Limberg

SEPTEMBER OFFERING STEWARDS

9/4 Don Caslavka
9/11 Sarah Vaughan
9/18 Jennifer Bell
9/25 Ken Howard

SEPTEMBER USHERS & GREETERS

8:15 Service: Lon & Mary Harper
Jan Reding

10:45 Service: Ray & Wendy Keys
Billy Courtney

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Thank you to Don and Cathy Basinger and Jennifer Bell for frying the fish last month. It was delicious!

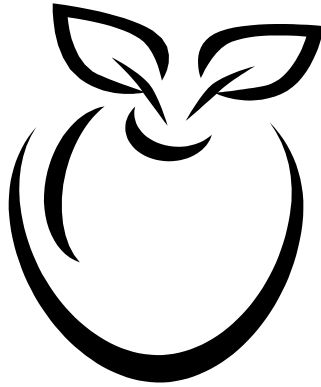
This month on the 18th, we will be having lasagna. We are now calling those whose month it is to serve. If you would like to see when your months are, let the office know. Even if it isn't your month, we can always use help in the kitchen. All are welcome to join us for this lunch and don't forget to ask your neighbor!

STEPHEN MINISTRY

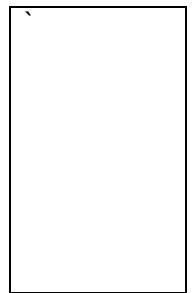
Woods Chapel UMC has invited us to a Stephen Ministry workshop. It will be on September 17th from 9-1pm. The cost is \$15 or \$50 for 4 or more going.

This ministry equips laypeople to minister to hurting people. It helps bridge the gap and ensure that those in need of Christ-centered care receive it.

If you are interested in going or need more information contact Karla Parkhurst 847-5341.



Faith United Methodist Church
Of Grain Valley
P.O. Box 251
1950 SW Eagles Parkway
Grain Valley, MO 64029
Telephone:(816) 847-0008



Forwarding Service Requested

