

First United Methodist Church

220 North Main Street
Trenton, Illinois 62293

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Trenton, IL 62293
Permit No. 1

The United Methodist Women
present their
May Fellowship Program
“Reach Out & Touch Someone”
Monday, May 10, 2010
at 2:00 p.m.



Worship Services:

Sunday - 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School (Adults & Children) 9:30 a.m.

Childcare provided all morning

Website: www.trentonfumc.com

Emails: pastor@trentonfumc.com

office@trentonfumc.com

staff@trentonfumc.com



The Newsletter

First United Methodist Church
220 North Main Street
Trenton, Illinois 62293
(618) 224-7364

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

MAY 2010

The Ramblings of Rev. Debbie...

I love spring! I love to watch the grass turn bright green. But I'm not so thrilled about the mowing part of it. I love to see the trees bud. But there are those left-over leaves from winter that are now soggy and gross and have to be sucked up. I love to open the windows and feeling the fresh, spring breeze. But how did those spiders build such huge webs in just a few months? I could go on and on, but you get the idea.

It's not just spring that brings the bad with the good....it's life in most aspects. With any transition, there are wonderful aspects, as well as those things we'd rather not have to deal with.

It is so exciting to see machinery on our property preparing for the new building! But then we look around at what we have and think, "It's not going to be the same in the new place....can't we just stay here where the memories were made?" Holes are being dug, footings poured, and utilities brought in to be ready for the next physical home of Trenton First UMC (or whatever name you choose when that time comes). I wonder how our predecessors felt when they moved from the log cabin south of Trenton to 220 N. Main Street? I wonder how they felt about the memories they left there? How did our ancestors in the faith feel when they tore down the first church building at 220 N. Main Street to make room for our current facility....or the part that was built at that time? There had to be some tears at that time, too, as the memories were brought to mind of what happened in that facility.

So it's only natural that there would be some sentimentality over yet another move to yet another location and yet another building.....and our predecessors went through the same emotions. I'm already thinking ahead to those who will need to do this all over again in 100 years or so.....and the memories that our 'new' building will hold for them.

What we as Christians know is that it isn't about a facility: it's about the One we worship within that facility. It isn't about whether it's brick or stone or steel or wood. It's about the substance of our faith that is poured as the foundation. It's not about 'nickels and noses', it's about the Holy Spirit moving through the hearts that are present to send us out in ministry to those who don't know Christ.

What's all this talk about money? What's this 'Greater Things' stuff we've been doing the past several months? "We should be talking about Jesus, not money." "This building is getting in the way of our worship of Christ." No, I haven't actually heard these statements.....I'm just imagining what some of you might be thinking. ☺

Like it or not, it IS the church's responsibility to teach us all how to use our money, to push us toward extravagant giving, and to help us place our personal stewardship in the right perspective. I've never heard a tither complain about stewardship sermons. I've never heard a tither complain about a capital campaign. When we give out of our love for Jesus Christ, there isn't resentment or bitterness, there's a desire to learn more, to give more, to prioritize better.

So, I'll keep mowing my yard (or watch others do it!) rather than pour concrete over my grass. I'll rake my leaves in the fall instead of chopping down all of my trees. And I'll be faithful to God with my money rather than putting my priorities on material things that don't last.

Gotta love those transitions, huh? Praise God for moving us forward whether we're kicking and screaming or celebrating and adjusting.

In Christ,
Debbie

My address and phone number are:

200 N. Tyler Street
Trenton, IL 62293
978-1513

CHURCH CONFERENCE MAY 3RD

There will be a Church Conference on Monday, May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. for the approval to purchase a new parsonage. Our current property will be used as collateral and therefore, we will not need a down payment. We already have \$1,000 per month in the church budget for a housing allowance and that will cover the cost of the loan payment while building equity for the church and providing a nice home for our future pastors. As we move away from our current location, we will need to sell our current church and parsonage as one parcel. The United Methodist church discourages housing allowances due to the limitations that puts on the appointment system.

This in no way affects our current building project. The funds are separate and the *budget we are now using takes care of our needs as we move forward with a new parsonage.*

At a Church Conference, all members of the church are allowed to vote. Please join us for this important time together.

Greater Things Prayer Event

It's time to pray! On Saturday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., we are invited and urged to spend intentional time in prayer at the church. "Can't we pray at home?" Of course we can. However, will we be *intentional* about our prayer time and will we get *uninterrupted* prayer time? If we try to do it from home, both are less likely.

There will be prayer stations set up throughout the sanctuary with prayer suggestions.....our community, our children, our character, our giving, and our church.....with further prayer suggestions under each category. We are at a critical time in the life of our church....the most important action we can take is to seek God's guidance. Please join us as we pray together as the body of Christ.

Greater Things Celebration Sunday

"Greater things have yet to come and greater things are still to be done in this city. There is no one like our God."

A huge celebration of worship is planned for both services on Sunday, May 2! There will be powerful music, moving testimonies, beautiful presentation of pictures, communion, and much more. We will also take time to receive and fill out our pledge cards for the Greater Things Campaign which will determine how much of our new building will be completed in the near future. Please come with an open heart to worship and praise our God who continues to do greater things in our midst!

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and build itself up in love, as each part does its work." Ephesians 4:16

SPECIAL PREACHER ON MAY 9TH

As a special treat on Mother's Day, Debbie's fiancé, Rev. Randy Reese, will be preaching in both services. Randy is a District Superintendent, serving the Embarras River District. Randy and Debbie will be married on June 19th and Debbie will be moving to Effingham where Randy currently lives.

You will be incredibly blessed by Randy's preaching.....don't miss it!

REV. DEBBIE'S NEW APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED



Bishop Gregory Palmer has announced the appointment of Debbie Melzer to the Neoga Grace and Etna UMC's in the Embarras River District. Neoga is about the size of Trenton and is located 18 miles northeast of Effingham and 12 miles southwest of Mattoon near I-57. The Grace UMC congregation recently completed a building project, and is now worshipping in a new facility in the same location as the old building. Debbie looks forward to helping the congregation fill the beautiful space that they've built.

Etna is located 20 miles northeast of Effingham and 8 miles southwest of Mattoon. Etna is a very small congregation full of love and great cooks!

This will be a $\frac{3}{4}$ time appointment, meaning that Debbie will have to reign herself in for a while as she adjusts to married life, moving, and a new appointment. Maybe she'll take up knitting or sky-diving!

GRADUATION SUNDAY

We will be celebrating our high school, college, graduate school, or other graduates on Sunday, May 30th in both services. Please let the church office know if you have a graduate in your family. Please pass along not only where they're graduating from, but also any future plans.

We look forward to celebrating with you!



SPRING CLEAN-UP DATE

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, June 5th as our church clean up and fix up date. During the month of May, we will be posting the various jobs that will need to be accomplished. Maybe you'll have a special talent for one or several of the items that needs to be done. We need your help in an all out effort to get our church and property ready for the arrival of our new minister and his wife on July 1. We are planning to serve lunch for the workers.

The Trustees appreciate your help with this endeavor.

TRENTON FUMC'S NEW PASTOR ANNOUNCED



We are excited to announce the appointment of Pastor Mike Rucker. He will begin July 1. Pastor Mike and his wife Beth have just celebrated 35 years of marriage. They have 2 daughters, Michelle(Jason) and Kimberly(Scott). Both are married and live in Bridgeport, Illinois. They also have 6 grandchildren: Trevor, Delaney, Andrew, Hannah, Hayley and Jayden.

Pastor Mike comes with a diverse background. In his early years, he worked with his family owned and operated printing plant. They also published the Bridgeport Leader Newspaper. It was during lean times at the family business that Pastor Mike embarked on a musical career through the United States. During this time, he felt the call to come home and settle down. Two weeks after returning home, he found

and accepted the Lord.

After accepting Christ, he joined Beulah United Methodist Church at Sumner, Illinois. He soon joined his brother Rick in his candy business, Rucker's Candy. He held the position of vice president of advertising and promotions for 7 years. At that time, he accepted his call into full-time ministry at Zion United Methodist Church at West Salem, Illinois.

In 1999, Pastor Mike arrived at Zion to fill the pulpit on evening and some morning services. In 2000, he was given the status of interim pastor until Annual Conference was held. Then, in June of 2000, Pastor Mike became a full-time pastor of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. At this time, he is serving as the chair of the District Ministry Team of the Kaskaskia River District. He also serves on the following committees: District Superintendency, Covenant Care Guides, Conference Evangelism, and serves as the webmaster for the Kaskaskia District.

Pastor Mike feels that his strengths are soul winning, leadership, preaching, a passion for sharing Jesus, and serving young persons and the young at heart. His sermons and church events can be viewed and listened to on the church's website:

<http://www.gbqm-umc.org/wszumc>.

Pastor Mike is very excited about the move and can't wait to start jamming with the band. He is looking forward to meeting the congregation and moving forward with the goals of Trenton First United Methodist Church.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

U.M.W. met on Monday April 12, 2010 at 7:00pm. Ann Stalcup was the speaker and her topic for the evening was "Immigration: Love as God Has Loved". The program focused on current work, related to the immigrants human and civil rights. Ann gave us a "true and false" test on immigrant realities. We learned how we are misled in our thinking about the immigrants.

Thanks to Ann for a very informative evening. Hostess was Yvonne Jackson.

Bonita Lang and Yvonne Jackson brought back information from the District meeting.

There will be NO formal U.M.W. meeting in May.

Ecumenical May Fellowship will be held Monday May 10, 2010 at 2:00pm (see the flyer in this newsletter!)

The June meeting will be Monday June 14, 2010 at 7:00pm. This will be a "joint" meeting with the Women of Faith and hosted by the U.M.W. There will be dinner and fun for all. We welcome all ladies to come and join us. For information, contact Bonita Lang, President or Yvonne Jackson, Vice President if you would like to attend.

WISDOM SEEKERS

Wisdom Seekers will meet on Tuesday May 4th and 18th at 10am in the Moses Room. We have (4) four more chapters to complete and will be winding down our series, "Have You Ever Seen a Hearse Pulling a Trailer?" by James Moore. We have learned you can't take material possessions with us when we die, but you can give your life now to values and relationships because they are of God's teachings and build our faith everyday.

In July, we will start a new series called, "Come Thirsty, No Heart Too Dry for His Touch," by Max Lucado.

Dining For Six (6)

Would you believe it is time to start new groups, again? I hope you have enjoyed these past months and have made some new friendships and eaten in some great places.

We will be meeting on Tuesday May 18, 2010 at 6:00pm at the Four Corners Pizza and Wings 7551 State Rd 160, New Baden, IL. (after 4 way stop, go straight on Rt. 160 toward New Memphis but don't cross railroad tracks, restaurant on right in new mini mall). We look forward to a great evening of fellowship, assigning new groups and hearing the stories of your group and where you have eaten.

If you plan to attend or not, but still want to join Dining for Six, please contact Carol Metzger (224-7576) or Yvonne Jackson (224-9065) so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect and get you assigned to a group.



GREATER THINGS ARE YET TO COME!

Have you driven East on Old HWY 50 lately, if so you would have seen the dirt is flying at our new church. Most likely by the time you read this Impact will have concrete going down also. This is a very exciting time for our Church. We have so many things going on and changes happening I wanted to give those that missed this update in church Sunday the opportunity to get caught up.

As you know the congregation voted on moving forward with the building of our new Church. I know there were quite a few praying that this would be sooner than later. The first phase out of 4 phases is the parking lot that will be oil and chip and the entire structure with the exterior completed except for part of the tower with the Methodist Flame and Cross. This phase is being completed with all of the dedicated members who have supported the building fund for all these years.

As I write this update there is another dedicated group making visits and explaining what our goals are for our future. Please give this committee the opportunity to explain all the exciting things we plan on doing. Whether or not you support the building fund, there are so many opportunities for you to get involved. One statistic I was given several years ago was that there are only approximately 50% of the families in our congregation giving to the building fund. Whatever the reason is, now is your chance to get involved. Every little bit will help and with an extra \$20.00 per week from the approximately 75 families in our congregation we could complete the entire building in one shot. What an awesome opportunity that would be to accomplish that monumental task.

As you pray on what God is asking us to do remember those who came before us and built this church so many years ago so that our families would have a place to worship and spread the good news of our Lord and Savior. We have that same opportunity to look to the future and ensure that our kids and grandkids have a church that will take them into the next century.

As you have probably heard Rev Deb will be moving on and we will be sad to see her go, but we all knew this day was coming. Deb has been such a blessing to this congregation in every way and we wish her the best of God's blessing as she moves forward.

One of the strong comments we get about our congregation is that we are a welcoming congregation and we now have another opportunity to show that as we prepare to greet our new Pastor Mike and his wife Beth. I know it goes without saying, but I am going to say it anyway; I pray that each and every one of you will show the same love and respect we gave Deb to pastor Mike. This is such an awesome time in our lives and we are all going to be stronger as we look to the future and give all the praise to Jesus Christ.

--- Kevin Moorhead



Harold Lang, Lay Leader, and Jim Mallrich, Trustee Chair, placing stones with names of past and present church members in the foundation of our new church on April 20, 2010.

CHRISTIAN MUSIC RADIO

I have enjoyed learning and playing praise music in recent years. At first I bought CD's so I could listen in the car. I am becoming more aware of the growing popularity of this music on the radio. WIBI has a multitude of locations on the radio dial. The ones that provide the best reception locally are 91.1 and 89.7. In addition, KEZK (102.5) has added a Sunday morning Contemporary Christian program, "The Answer," from 7-10am.

I would like to encourage you to explore it out on your radio at home, in the car or on your computer. I know your spirits will be lifted as you ride along humming such uplifting music. Check it out!

----Sheila Klein

BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE

Because our church family has been such a tremendous blessing to Jameson's life in his first year (and in all the years to come, we are confident), we invite our family of faith at Trenton First United Methodist Church to celebrate our little miracle's first birthday. We will hold a cake and punch Open House after the late service on Sunday, June 6, in the church basement. No gifts, please, but we would invite anyone who's interested to contribute new or very gently used teddy bears to a Teddy Bear Drive for the Cardinal-Glennon NICU in honor of Jameson's birthday.

-----JJ & Shannon Mallrich

Midwest Distribution Center Items Needed

The Center needs flood bucket supplies and the following items for layette supplies: 6 cloth diapers, 2 undershirts or onesies, 2 baby washcloths, 2 gowns or sleepers, 2 diaper pins, 1 open front sweater or sweatshirt, and 2 receiving blankets are needed for each layette.

If you are able to contribute any of these items, please bring them to church and put in container marked for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. The Mission group will bring the items collected to the Center on Friday, May 14th.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

THANK YOU!!

Mary Lemons would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, and good wishes for her 80th birthday. She appreciates all of her church family.

VITAL STATISTICS

Apr. 4 Off: \$4702	Apr. 11 Off: \$ 2655	Apr. 18 Off: \$ 3309	Apr. 25 Off: \$2971
Att: 229	Att: 117	Att: 128	Att: 139

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 1 Carli Carroll	3 Devon Creath
6 Jody Pintar	4 Katie Hale
6 Doug Harried	6 Sam Crandall
10 Linda Medley	14 Jeff Campbell
13 Analeigh VanGorkom	15 Brittney Schipke
15 Ran Powers	17 Katelyn Brown
16 Robert Beck	17 Howard Harpstrite
18 Liz Hasler	20 Jackie VanGorkom
20 Jason Moorhead	23 Thelma Medcalf
24 Brett Davis	24 Melanie Wuebbels
25 Erin Heiser	28 Blair Turner
28 Courtney Carroll	28 Ruth Smith
	29 Beth Toennies



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

May 15 Mel & Cheryl Barrett	16 Joan & Rick Jenkins
18 Liz & Rob Blinn	25 Keith & Rosie Wall
27 Don & Ann Stalcup	30 Jay & Shannon Mallrich
30 Ran & Lisa Powers	

