
THE PARISH VISITOR

Coffeyville First United Methodist Church

Our Mission: **Making Disciples of Jesus Christ.**

Our BHAG (Big, Holy, Audacious Goal): **Excellence in Ministry with Children.**

June 2010 Edition

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Issue 4

VBS 2010 – Galactic Blast

By Jennifer Collins – Posted to the Pastors' Blog on May 5, 2010

Vacation Bible School 2010 is scheduled for July 12-16, 9 am to noon. Once again this year, we will offer VBS for kids entering grades K-6 in fall 2010. We will also have a nursery for children of VBS volunteers and for children who are a part of Coffeyville First UMC. At Galactic Blast VBS, cadets will gather together for opening and closing assemblies and then will go by classes to the various centers: Bible story, crafts, discovery time, music, recreation, and snacks. This year, we will be continuing our mission project we began earlier this year, by bringing offerings for the “Nothing But Nets” campaign to provide insecticide treated mosquito nets to help prevent the spread of Malaria.

How can you help? If you would like to volunteer to help, there are several opportunities. Prior to VBS, there is the opportunity to help create space-themed decorations, or to let us borrow space themed decorations that you already have. There are also opportunities during the week of VBS to help out as a volunteer in various areas. If you are not able to volunteer your time, but you would like to go beyond your regular giving and contribute financially with a designated offering, you are always welcome to do that. We will again be putting signs for VBS in yards to advertise the event. If you would be willing to have a sign in your yard let us know. Finally, we request your prayers for VBS. We hope and pray that VBS will be a wonderful week where the volunteers and the kids can experience God's love and learn ways to follow Christ with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

If you would like to volunteer to help with VBS, please contact Pastor Jenny (jenny@revcollins.com) or the church office. Please spread the word about VBS to the children you know.

2009-2010 Graduates

By John Collins – Posted to the Pastors' Blog on May 21, 2010

Below are the graduates that the church office has been notified of for the 2009-2010 school year.* As a church we celebrate their achievements and pray God's blessing upon their lives.

- Lauren Acheson, Washburn University, Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education
- Michelle Bernhart, Pittsburg State University, Bachelor of Science in Biology
- Emilio Cariman, Cherryvale High School
- Joshua Ferguson, McPherson High School
- William Fulls, Coffeyville Community College
- Danny Funk, Pittsburg State University, Master of Business Administration
- Bobby Larimore, Pittsburg State University, Master of Business Administration
- Kelsey Lyberger, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School
- Marshall Masters, Wichita State University, Bachelor of Science in Political Science

- Nichole Miller, South Coffeyville High School
- Holly Rauch, Rockhurst University, Doctorate, Physical Therapy
- Julie Thompson, Pittsburg State University, Master of Education
- Wilfrid Zoungrana, Coffeyville Community College

*Only the names, institutions and degrees have been listed because that is the only information available for all graduates. Please inform the church office of any additions or corrections.

United Methodists in Grace Park

By John Collins — Posted to the Pastors' Blog on April 19, 2010

We had thirteen people at Grace Park this past Saturday (April 17, 2010). All the equipment was thoroughly scraped and a first coat of paint put down. It looks a great deal better already.

Jan Hester was kind enough to hold the trash bag while I shoveled out some of the curbs and it was interesting to see that after I had done some, one person living next to the park came out and cleaned the curb in front of their house. This kind of work can be contagious.

The first job given to humanity, a task given before the fall from grace into sin, was to tend to God's good creation. Both the volunteers at Grace Park and the volunteers taking recycling materials up to Independence this past Saturday were doing just that. Thank you all.

New Benches in the West Lot

By John Collins — Posted to the Pastors' Blog on May 28, 2010

New benches purchased with memorial money have been installed in the west lot. They have been placed on either side of an old brick sidewalk that used to lead to the house there. Thanks to the youth for clearing off more of the sidewalk and thanks to Dave Larimore for the installation. The intent of the benches and future additions to the west lot is to enhance the last green space in the downtown area and encourage it's use by the entire community. This past spring some CCC students would sit in the grass and eat lunch on a regular basis. The hope is that the addition of these benches and possibly a picnic table and some children's playground equipment will encourage such activities.

As we develop the space, we'll probably need to find something to call it other than the west lot. One suggestion I've heard is to call it "Memorial Park." The follow up suggestion was to place a sign on the lot with "Memorial Park," on the front and the names of all those saints in whose names memorial money has been given on the back. If you have other suggestions please let us know. As the name "Memorial Park," implies, the intent is to finance the upgrades to the west lot with memorial money.

Concerning Your Church's Finances

By John Collins — Posted to the Pastors' Blog on May 7, 2010

Dear Members and Friends of First United Methodist Church,

We write this letter to update you on the current financial situation of your church and to ask you to prayerfully consider the possibility of increasing your giving. But, we want to begin by first thanking all of you for your contributions. You have made the many ministries of your church, such as the food pantry and Vacation Bible School possible and successful while also providing for the more mundane parts of our life together such as utility bills and salaries.

At the beginning of 2010, the church's general operating fund stood at \$7,152, but as of the end of March, it had dropped roughly \$10,000 to -\$3,265. As a church, we have been in worse spots before. At the end of 2004, the general operating fund was -\$23,056. So we have been in much worse situations, but we do not want to go there again.

To this end, the Finance Committee has been considering ways to cut spending. One relatively large expenditure, the salary for our secretary, Linda Beever, is already scheduled for a reduction when Linda retires from full-time to part-time in January 2011. That month, we will also see our apportionments drop approximately 10% due to a change in the apportionment formula (our apportionments also fell by 10% between 2009 and 2010). Other reductions have already been approved, while still others are being considered.

None of the budget reductions currently being considered can be taken lightly. For that reason we're asking you to prayerfully consider the possibility of increasing your giving when you pray for your church.

Grace and Peace,

Kathy Wood, Finance Committee Chair

Dave Larimore, Church Council Chair

John and Jenny Collins, Pastors

P.S. You may have noticed that improvements continue to be made to the church building despite the fact that the general fund has dropped. It is important for you to know that these improvements come from restricted funds such as bequests and memorials that are not available for ongoing expenses.

First Impressions

By Dan Dick (Reprinted with permission from the blog *United Methodieviations*.)

I drove past a church sign last week (I am happy to say, NOT United Methodist) that proudly proclaimed, "Christ is Rised! Jesus is Load!" Now, this might have been a mistake, though the church also has a banner outside advertising "Sevices 9 & 11." I don't think these are cases of vandalism — no letters are moved around out-of-place, and they are all uniform. So, the question, as I drove on was, "What is the meta-message being sent by such a sign?" Do misspellings and poor grammar influence our decisions about whether to "try out" a church or not? It started me thinking on a whole host of issues related for a church enamored with "radical hospitality."

I have had the opportunity to worship in hundreds and visit thousands (literally) of different churches of all shapes, sizes, ages, and locations. In my consultant role, I made it a normal practice to arrive early and walk the community, inspect the church inside and out, and poke in corners, closets, and behind closed doors. What I found most often is the church equivalent of what retailers call "store blindness" — a wide variety of clutter, decay, mess, and disrepair that we simply become blind to over time, but that jumps out at first time "customers."

Now, I want to be clear up front. I'm not talking "big-ticket," costly changes. The number one defense I have heard over the years for our saggy, sorry, stricken state is that we don't have money. This won't fly. Some of our prettiest, best kept, most attractive and appealing churches have few paid staff and extremely limited resources. The care of the local church depends not on money, but a sense of ownership and pride on the part of the congregation. This truly is a case of many hands making light work. It is nothing more or less than the answer to the question, "How much do we care?"

Some illustrations, from the simple to the, well, basically still simple:

- weeds, branches, leaves, dead plants, etc. around the property
- broken signs, chipped paint, dirty windows, dirty carpets, memorial dust from the 1970s
- in one church, I sat and counted 63 dried fly carcasses on a window sill
- bags of “stuff” stacked around the narthex
- inadequate or non-existent signage
- one service I attended invited me to “enter the sanctuary in silence to prepare my heart and mind for worship,” but when I sat down I was treated to twenty-minutes of worship leaders frantically trying to get the DVD player and projector to work. The research in this area is overwhelming — it is better NOT to use technology than to use it poorly. Those who [use] it most successfully report that they use Saturday for rehearsal — Sunday morning is NOT the time to work out problems.
- doors in poor condition — it is a fact of human nature, people don’t like going through ugly doors. It lowers their impression of the whole building they are entering.
- Sad, tattered, faded “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” banners. They were beautiful when we put them up, but they’ve been up so long we don’t even see them anymore. Guess what? Other people do see them and they wonder why we leave them up when they are in such sorry condition.
- cluttered chancel areas — I’m still wondering about a single, muddy boot that sat on the edge of the altar table through the entire worship service in a small church I visited a few months ago...
- “stuff” in hymnals and pew racks — I recently opened a hymnal to find copies of old bulletins from October, January, and February tucked in strategic locations. Out of curiosity, I picked up another hymnal at random, and found similar treasures.
- “secret code” — the sign on the door read: “T.N.T.- sanc., UMW – S. Wesley, Men – Gr. Chap., Circuit – Comm. Rm.” What possible chance does a visitor have of knowing what ... is going on here?

Believe it or not — right or wrong — these things make a huge difference. How do I know? I asked people — for years in my survey work with the General Board of Discipleship. I did a specific study of visitors to United Methodist Churches who chose not to come back, to find out why. The short answer is simply that we made a very poor first impression. We unintentionally communicated a variety of negative messages: that we don’t know what we’re doing, that we don’t care much about our church, that we’re sloppy, that we’re careless, that we’re lazy, that we’re low-class, that we’re ignorant. Many of these impressions and opinions may be unfair, but perception is strong and these are all perceptions that people shared with me over the years about our United Methodist Churches.

You never get a second chance to make a first impression, the old saying goes. There is a deep truth to this for churches. 79% of visitors visit a church only once (this includes those who come for baptisms, weddings, and funerals). In our pursuit of “radical hospitality” we need to understand that this is not just about how we act and what we say. It is not just in helping people be more welcoming, but also in making our spaces more welcoming and attractive. A person does not feel welcome if they do not feel comfortable. An important aspect of hospitality is to be mindful and intentional about eliminating those things that make visitors and guests uncomfortable.

In 2008, we United Methodists added a “witness” to our membership vows. But what is our congregational witness in the community? It is a complex blend of what we say, what we do, what we give, how we serve, and the impact we make on the lives of those we come in contact with. Our witness is how we are known by others — it is our reputation within the congregation and beyond to the community and world. How we are seen by others matters. It may be worthwhile for each of us to take some time to reflect on what kind of first impression (and second, and third, and fiftieth, and hundredth...) we are currently making, and see if there isn’t anything we might do to make it better.

Prayer Concerns

Members:

Due to privacy concerns, names are not included in the online version of the newsletter. Please contact the church office at mail@coffeyvillefirstumc.org to request a current list.

Family and Friends:

Those grieving the loss of:

For community leaders: local elected officials and administrators; USD 445 teachers, employees and board; and members of the armed forces.

If you know of any changes that need to be made to the prayer concerns please fill out the form found in the Sunday bulletin, call the church office at 620-251-3240, or email linda@coffeyvillefirstumc.org.

Our Giving

March 28, 2010: General Fund - \$7,140; Trustees - \$10; Sunday School - \$46.25; Emergency Assistance Fund - \$404

April 4, 2010: General Fund - \$5419; Trustees - \$81; Sunday School - \$5; Genesis - \$10; Special Offering for Emergency Assistance Fund - \$767

April 5, 2010: Pennies for Youth Fund - \$12.52

April 11, 2010: General Fund - \$4,392; Trustees - \$5; Sunday School - \$33.50; Food Pantry - \$13.05; Emergency Assistance Fund - \$95

April 18, 2010: General Fund - \$3,775.49; Trustees - \$6; Sunday School - \$22.50; Emergency Assistance Fund - \$363; Nothing but Nets - \$290; Vacation Bible School - \$10

April 25, 2010: General Fund - \$3,171; Trustees - \$5; Sunday School - \$35.40; Genesis - \$25; Emergency Assistance Fund - \$402; Nothing But Nets - \$31; Bridges for the Future - \$8; CCC Scholarship - \$20; Technology - \$350

May 2, 2010: General Fund - \$6,103; Trustees - \$64; Sunday School - \$28.75; Genesis - \$25; Emergency Assistance Fund - \$2

May 9, 2010: General Fund - \$6,023; Trustees - \$140; Sunday School - \$30; Genesis - \$25; Bridges to the Future - \$5; Food Pantry - \$15

May 16, 2010: General Fund - \$3,027; Trustees - \$11; Sunday School - \$23; Emergency Assistance Fund - \$2; Food Pantry - \$15

May 23, 2010: General Fund - \$3,527; Trustees - \$8; Sunday School - \$25; Emergency Assistance Fund - \$2; Food Pantry - \$10

May 30, 2010: General Fund - \$3,479; Trustees - \$5; Sunday School - \$26; Emergency Assistance Fund - \$2; Bridges to the Future - \$5; Vacation Bible School - \$5

June Birthdays

- 1 Jewel Hunt
- 4 Bev Lawson
- 5 Louise Hopkins
- 7 Dave Larimore, Margaret Lyberger and Matthew Redden
- 11 Anne Ketterman and Rex Williams
- 15 Marjorie Fuller
- 16 Pat Layton
- 17 Sonya Rigdon
- 18 Norma Alter
- 20 Susan Tuggle
- 22 Bert Lanning and Jim Lawson
- 25 Paul Griffiths
- 27 Larry Hiner
- 28 Steve Rauch
- 30 Betty Gearhart

July Birthdays

- 3 Gayle Lank
- 4 Audrey Tuggle
- 5 Charles Cornett
- 6 Phil Mashburn
- 7 Julie Thompson
- 8 Danny Funk
- 9 Edwin Neale
- 10 Phyllis Pevehouse
- 11 Max Williams
- 14 Betty Sullivan
- 17 Judy Hiner
- 19 Joan Shearhart
- 20 Rowene McClure
- 21 Kay Henderson
- 25 J.L. Hunt and Mary Neely
- 27 Tom Ingram and Nolan Luhn
- 28 Cornelia Davis
- 29 Pratt Barndollar, Jr. and Gene Hughey
- 30 Dorothy Durkin and Betty Hayes

August Birthdays

- 2 Gayle Keith
- 3 Sarah Brown and Betty Chronister
- 4 Jim Taylor
- 5 Pete Burris and Robert Sallee
- 8 Kendall Garton and Klinell Hey
- 9 Charles (Pug) Clough
- 11 Joyce Banta, Jackie Clough and Vernie Stallings
- 12 Emma Pool
- 13 Chad McMurray
- 15 Charlotte McMurray
- 16 Jenny Collins and Glenn Hamby
- 18 Brent Henderson, Gail Misch and Betty Sandon
- 19 Evelyn Evitts
- 20 Phyllis Thornbrough
- 23 Connie Nehrbass and J. R. Sullivan
- 26 Ken Jones

September Birthdays

- 4 Bernice Hansen
- 5 Connie Cox
- 6 Randi Bernhart
- 7 Mike Banta and John Bottomley
- 8 Phil Bernhart and Karen Foster
- 9 Tom Bumgardner and Gail Traxson
- 11 Ruby Sallee
- 12 Betty Gossard
- 13 Tawnya Eck
- 18 Anna Pool
- 19 Gary Johnson and Kevin Pool
- 20 Jared Dobbins
- 24 Vicki Rauch and Brian Walker
- 25 Kathryn Long, Cathy Thompson, Rick Thompson and D. L. Wood

We are listing birthdays for several months at a time so that additions and corrections can be made before a birthday passes. Please let us know of any additions or corrections that are needed.

Regular Weekly Events

Sunday	8:10 a.m.	Worship in the Chapel (Small Worship Area)
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Coffee Time in Fellowship Hall
	10:50 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary (Large Worship Area)
	5:00 p.m.	Youth
Monday	7:15 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	5:15 p.m.	Board of Trustees (first Wednesday of the month in Room 110)
	5:15 p.m.	Vision Team (second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in Room 110)
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice resumes July 7, 2010.

Upcoming Events

Church Council Meeting: Monday, June 7, 2010 at 5:15 p.m. in Room 110.

Kansas East Conference: Wednesday, June 9 - Saturday, June 12, 2010 at UM Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas.

Bobby Larimore and Ashton Patterson's Wedding: Saturday, June 12, 2010 in the Sanctuary.

John and Jenny Collins on Vacation: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 through Thursday, June 24, 2010.

Additional Board of Trustees Meeting to discuss pews for the Sanctuary: Wednesday June 16, 2010 at 5:15 p.m. in Room 110.

Incubator Meeting for John: Monday, June 28, 2010 at Parsons Wesley UMC.

Theological Reading Group for John: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at Overland Park Church of the Nazarene

Vacation Bible School Preparations: Thursday, July 1 and Friday July 2, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Vacation Bible School Preparations: Thursday, July 8 and Friday, July 9, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Vacation Bible School: Monday, July 12 - Friday, July 16, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Fellowship Hall and throughout the educational wing.

Kansas East Conference Council on Finance and Administration for John: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at the Kansas East Conference Office in Topeka.

Incubator Meeting for John: Monday, July 26, 2010 at Parsons Wesley UMC.

Packing of Packs for "Pack Their Packs" Project: Tuesday, August 3 and Wednesday, August 4, 2010 in Fellowship Hall.

Jessica Thompson and Bob Jacobs' Wedding: Saturday, September 18, 2010 in the Sanctuary.

An regularly updated calendar can be found online at coffeyvillefirstumc.org.

Contact Us

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