



Good
Shepherd
United
Methodist
Church

November 2011

STAFF

Newsletter

ATTRACTING, BUILDING AND UTILIZING DISCIPLES FOR JESUS CHRIST, HEART-TO-HEART-NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR

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Dear Friends,

This is a good news, bad news blog.
Mostly good!

Francis has been back in Sierra Leone for four weeks now. The bad news is that communication is terrible this time. The cell phone connections are frustrating. You can hear about every third syllable. What? What? It has also been impossible to get his computer connection, so no emails. And there's no mail service in Sierra Leone since the war, so not even snail mail. No way to send new pictures. So this is Bobbie doing the blog, relaying what I've been able to hear during those "What? What?" phone calls.

The good news is that the building project is progressing. The second big blue roof will be finished by the end of November. Since you've seen the first one, you can picture that in your mind, right? The latrines are being built now, too. And Francis is healthy so far and trying to stay that way. He is very busy and making everyone around him be busy, too. You can probably picture that, too.

Extra good news is that the rice is being harvested. More than seventy people are

working at it. Imagine a 40 acre wheat field being cut by hand one handful at a time, stalk by stalk. That is the way this kind of rice has to be harvested. They will be working on it into mid-November. This will provide enough rice in storage to feed Madina village for the whole year.

Meanwhile, people here in Indiana have been inspired to do more to help in Madina. A group of women has started sewing clothes for the children. A trucking company has transported donated books from schools to Operation Classroom to be shipped. Middle school and high school kids have written to Francis pledging their support to collect school supplies. People who are touched by the Spirit's prompting are coming up with ways to contribute that we would not even have thought of. It is very encouraging and we are thankful to the givers and doers and the Spirit who prompts you. God bless you from the bottom of our hearts.

Gratefully,
Bobbie, for Francis and
the children of Madina



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 13 ~ 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club

Bring the whole family for a great breakfast and fellowship.
Proceeds support the building of the school in Sierra Leone.

THANKS IN ADVANCE FROM PASTOR CRAIG

"We always thank God for all of you; mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3) I could easily change the "we" in this passage to "I." As I write this it is Monday morning after consecration Sunday. I had the privilege to witness your faith, love and endurance that is inspired by Jesus. As you came forward and placed your commitment cards on the altar I was inspired by your sacrifice. It is a very moving time for me to witness you act upon your faith!

It is too early in the day to give you any idea of the amount of gifts given to God through your church, but it is not too early to thank you in advance for what you have done and for what God is doing through you. When Paul wrote these words to the people of Thessalonica, he is inspired by their enduring faith during times of persecution. Many today may feel they are being persecuted economically because of the unstable economic environment, loss of jobs and uncertainty. And yet, in the midst of such uncertainty you have chosen to give and to sacrifice.

There is a lot to read about in this newsletter. There are some significant changes that are coming in 2012 that you need to take notice of in this issue. There appears to be a growing excitement about Good Shepherd's future and about our future potential to make an impact in our community and beyond.

I thank you for the sacrifice and gifts of service, time, prayer, and love that is yet to come. To that end, the United Methodist denomination has asked each church to set numerical goals in the areas of worship attendance, new Christians, discipleship, people engaged in mission and financial support to mission. WOW!! This is a major step of faith. Without being overly ambitious, preliminary goals have been set through 2015! Are you up for the challenge?! Are you ready for the journey of faith?! I am!! Together, with God working through and among us, we will be able to accomplish goals for the kingdom of God that none of us could do alone.

November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. Reversed, it is the celebration of Giving Thanks. My celebration began this past Sunday and will continue far into the future. Thanks be to God who makes all things possible.

PASTOR CRAIG'S TEACHING SERIES CONTINUES IN NOVEMBER

COMING IN NOVEMBER ~ INTENTIONAL PARENTING

- November 2:** What it means to parent with intentionality
- November 9:** Are we failing or falling forward? Story telling
- November 16:** Moving beyond where we are – staying committed, staying connected
- November 23:** No class day before Thanksgiving
- November 30:** SKIPPING CHRISTMAS: The Book and Survival for the Holidays



GOOD SHEPHERD WELCOMES NEW FACILITY MANAGER



Hi! I am Mike Niccum and along with my wife Yvonne we reside on the north side of Fort Wayne. We have three grown daughters, two of whom live in Denver, Colorado, an one who lives in Fort Wayne along with two grandchildren that we love to spoil.

My past work experience has been primarily as purchasing manager in the marine industry. Yvonne and I are longtime members of Saint Joseph UMC and are active in several areas. We also volunteer for the Rescue Mission with an emphasis towards the Charis House.

I look forward to being a part of your staff and am anxious to meet and get to know all of you.



MARK SMEBY GUEST ARTIST

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 6:00 P.M.

Mark Smeby is a Nashville musician and a man on a journey—a self-professed pilgrim. “I love the idea that we are all on the road to our actual homeland—that we are merely travelers passing through this world. It’s not that the value of where we’re at right now is diminished, but we realize we are meant for something more than what many of us are settling for while in this temporary, superficial, broken world.” Mark will be at GSUM to share his insights and his music during Saturday worship on November 5 at 6:00 p.m. This evening promises to be a great time of worship, fellowship and song. Bring a friend, settle in for a stop on your “pilgrim journey” and enjoy an evening of great music. You can find out more about Mark and hear his music at www.MarkSmeby.com.

THANKSGIVING FEAST



It’s getting close to one of Good Shepherd staff’s favorite days of the year! Anyone 55 and older is invited to share a wonderful evening of terrific food, fun entertainment and all in all just a great time to be with good friends!

On **November 18**, the evening will begin with wassail being served at 5:00 then dinner served at 6:00. Please sign up outside Raasch Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!



CHRISTMAS MUSICAL DECEMBER 10 AND 11

Imagine working the night shift and going about your regular duties outside when an incredible light almost blinds you and you hear strange voices. Scared? You better believe it! That’s what happened to a small band of shepherds outside of Bethlehem a couple of millennia ago. Their story of fear, wonder, and - eventually - joyous belief is the context for this year’s Christmas musical *Dance into the Light*. Now is a great time to consider who would enjoy visiting Good Shepherd with you to for this special event. Your guests will hear a large Festival Choir and an orchestra made up of some of Fort Wayne’s best musicians. **Saturday, December 10, worship will begin at 5:00 p.m.** to make room for guests who go to other churches or who might like to be home early. **Sunday worship will be at 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.** So on your holiday planning list, include inviting friends to join you for great music at Good Shepherd.



All Saints Weekend

Family, friends and the entire Christian community are encouraged to gather in worship to remember the Glory of God in those who have gone before us, particularly our beloved who have died in the last year. We will honor these saints during Worship at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, **November 5**, and all three services on Sunday, **November 6**.

Violet Hamilton, Nov. 17, 2010

Sue Snyder, Nov. 26, 2010

Donna Lee McKittrick, Dec. 15, 2010

Dorothy Langley, Feb. 14, 2011

Carolyn Macke, Mar. 16, 2011

Don Brattain, Mar. 29, 2011

Anne MacPherson, May 3, 2011

Mary Drummer, May 26, 2011

Dorothy White, June 2, 2011

Roy Dike, June, 2011

Gale York Vorndran, July 13, 2011

Mary Pam Arnold, Sept. 6, 2011

Richard Carroll, Oct. 5, 2011

Beverly Adair, Oct. 12, 2011

Mary Pat Brunson, Nov 26, 2010

Sylvia Nofzinger, Dec. 15, 2010

Jeff Cannon, Jan. 1, 2011

Gary Adang, Mar. 14, 2011

Miriam Perkins, Mar. 25, 2011

Les McQueen, April 24, 2011

Brent Niday, May 14, 2011

Harry Barrett, May 31, 2011

Susan Whetstone, June 21, 2011

Jodi Sue Smith, June 29, 2011

Rex Dodge, Sept. 3, 2011

Mary Jo Skinner, Sept. 18, 2011

Norma Underwood, Oct. 9, 2011

Matthew Musick, Oct. 12, 2011

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

~John 11:25-26

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL BRINGS CHANGES FOR 2012

At the October 27 Church Council, a report was shared from Pastor Craig. He shared a number of reasons to support the change of adding more time in between Sunday morning worship services. Here is a summary of that report:

In order to facilitate more time for fellowship, for pastors and others to meet new persons, to allow for better people traffic and car traffic and parking, to accommodate children in the middle worship service weekly, Sunday morning worship times will need to be adjusted. **Beginning January 1, 2012**, the Sunday morning worship times will be:

First Service: 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Second Service: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Third Worship; 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

An added plus will be that children will be invited to attend the first 15 minutes of the 9:30 a.m. worship service. They will be invited to a children's story and then dismissed to their Sunday schools. Sunday school will still be one hour extending 15 minutes beyond the conclusion of the worship service. This allows parents 15 minutes of adult social time after worship.

In a separate report, Pastor Craig shared concern for the Saturday evening worship. Many attempts have been made over the last decade to infuse more life and consistent leadership into the Saturday worship service with little or no success. There are very seldom any new guests to this worship service compared with many guests every week on Sundays.

Because of the rotation of musical and singing groups, it is difficult to "market" and difficult to build any consistent team to work with the pastors. Although the average attendance appears fine, it is misleading in that there is truly only a small core group of regular attendees.

With no desire to repeat history, it appears to be time to bring the Saturday worship service to an appropriate conclusion. Beginning on January 1, 2012, Good Shepherd will conduct three Sunday morning worship services and the Saturday evening worship will be discontinued. This will allow pastoral and church leadership to put renewed energy into other worship areas. A worship leadership group will be formed to look at new possibilities for a different worship style that we do not currently offer.

We celebrate the many worship services of Saturday evening and are sensitive to those who have enjoyed the option of Saturday evening worship. There will be Saturday evening events that will happen occasionally that we will promote and utilize options to reach new people and provide opportunity for worshipful events outside of Sunday morning.

In his report, Pastor Phil Emerson shared the date of his retirement of June 2012 at conference time. His retirement was planned as a part of the pastor transition. We will not say good-bye yet, but will plan a time in the future when we can share our love and appreciation for Pastor Phil and Phyllis.



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

It's that time of year again! College care package time. There will be collection boxes in the narthex starting Saturday **October 29 - November 13**.

We are looking for easy snacks for the student to pick up and take with them during their busy testing schedule or while studying late at night. Items like granola bars, nuts, popcorn, crackers, cookies, candies, hot chocolate, or tea. We will also accept monetary donations to help defer the cost of shipping and to purchase any additional items needed.

Families and friends of students if you would like to include a special note or gift card in your students care box please label with the students name and leave at the preschool office no later than November 13. Please don't leave anything larger than a note or gift card.



GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

As always Preschool is busy busy busy! We just finished a very successful Grandparents Day. Approximately 300 grandparents came to experience a day at preschool. Everyone had a great time. In Chapel we learned everyone has a sacred story to tell. We sang, played outside, made a craft and had a snack.

We're gearing up for parent/teacher conferences on Oct 20 and 21 and the cookie dough will be delivered on Oct 20. Halloween is just around the corner and we are anxiously awaiting our costume parades on Oct 27 and 28 at either 10:45 a.m. or 2:15 p.m. We are only days away from filling the hallways with Christmas songs.

CHICAGO BUS TRIP NOVEMBER 12

THERE'S JUST A FEW SEATS LEFT! Everyone is welcome to get on board and spend the day in Chicago. There will be stops at the Museum of Science and Industry with another stop at the Field Museum and Shedd Aquarium as well as downtown at Water Tower Place, so you can spend the day shopping or checking out one of these amazing Chicago attractions. Bring the whole family or invite a friend and climb aboard! Cost is only \$40 per person and you ride in an Excursions luxury bus without all the hassle of driving or parking in Chicago traffic! Proceeds will benefit UMW Mission projects. You may sign-up outside Raasch Hall or by calling Paulette Ross at 493-4597.

PECAN & CANDY SALES STARTING SOON

Beginning **November 5**, the UMW pecans and specialty candy will be available at Saturday Night Alive worship, between services on Sunday and at Wednesday Night Family Night. The price for a one-pound bag of either halves or pieces is \$10.00. A variety of specialty candy such as malted milk balls, dark chocolate cranberries, harvest medley, and dark chocolate bridge mix will also be available as well as homemade peanut brittle.

All proceeds go to support missions of the United Methodist Women. For more information or to volunteer to help with selling these products, please contact Dorothy Schlatter at 749-2392.



ABIGAIL CIRCLE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 1:00 P.M.



ALL WOMEN are welcome to Abigail Circle in Room 147/149 on **November 9**, (Door #5 will be open for you). Led by Ruth Arnold with devotions by Janis Bohnstedt, this promises to be a very special time of fellowship. Special guest, Carolyn Danielson, is the current vice president of the Northeast District United Methodist Women and an active member of Lagrange United Methodist Church where her husband, Chris, is the pastor. Carolyn will bring a wonderful program, *Songs of Forgiveness and Hope*. Invite a friend and enjoy the afternoon. Your hostesses for the day will be Paulette Ross, Sharon Jones and Pat Lewis and the commitment will be the Bracelet Ministry.



THANKSGIVING CARDS FOR OUR SHUT-INS

You are invited to share in the fellowship and making of Thanksgiving

Cards for our shut-ins on Tuesday, **November 8**, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 138. There will be a sign up sheet in the back hallway.



Family Night

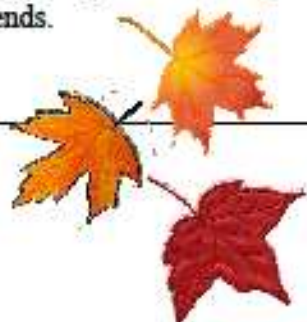


FAMILY NIGHT TAKES A BREAK

Family Night takes a break for Thanksgiving on **November 23**. On that evening, there won't be any meal, choirs, Bible studies, fellowship groups or a worship service. Enjoy this special evening with family and friends.

NEED SOME QUIET TIME AMIDST THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS?

For about 45 minutes, the Taize Worship Service is an oasis for prayer and meditation. With song, scripture and prayer, Taize offers a respite unlike any other. Following worship, you are welcome to stay and walk the Labyrinth if you wish. The Labyrinth is an ancient prayer tool that many find rewarding. Taize Worship begins at 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month in the Activity Center. You may come in through door number 5 (Vance Avenue). The next service will be **November 27**. There will be no Taize/Labyrinth Worship in December, but will resume **January 22**.



FRIENDSHIP FREEZER

Did you know we have a "Friendship Freezer" at Good Shepherd? If you didn't, you do now. The Friendship Freezer is used for food that members of our congregation make and then is frozen and kept until it is needed. The food is used to help people home from the hospital that need a couple meals provided to them in the recuperation process, families who lost their jobs and need a little help until they find a new job, or people who need assistance just to make ends meet. The people

who receive the food prepared by our members are grateful to be able to go home with a bag or two of home cooked food that just needs a little preparation before it is put on their tables. Won't you consider making something to put in the freezer? Please contact Kelley Hathaway at 483-8816 or at khathaway@fwgoodshepherd.org for more information.

PUMPKIN PATCH THANK YOU!

We would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all the people who helped with the Pumpkin Patch. The hours you worked and the time you gave up with your families to be out in the patch is so very much appreciated. The pumpkin patch could not be successful without you! Thanks again and we hope to see you next year!



Christmas Tea and Cookie Walk

Thursday, December 1, 6:30 p.m.

Sarah Wall, Harpist

Watch for upcoming details and plan to start your Christmas season off with this fun and entertaining evening.

All women are welcome!

CHRISTMAS BIBLE SCHOOL DECEMBER 3, 2011

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Cost is just \$8.00 per child

Children ages 3 (by August 1) through 5th grade are welcome and encouraged to invite their friends to Christmas Bible School, where we will celebrate the birth of Jesus our savior with music, stories, games, crafts and a birthday celebration. Must have completed 6th grade to be a helper.

Children can be signed up by going on-line at our website: www.fwgoodshepherd.org, or by completing a registration form found in the main hallway beginning November 8.

Volunteers are needed for this program, so please contact Deb Miteff at 483-8816 or damiteff@fwgoodshepherd.org. Volunteer sign-up sheets are also posted in the main hallway. You must be in senior high to lead a group and you must be in middle school to be a helper.



SAVE THOSE GLASS JARS!

YUP you guessed it! The Education team is at it again with a recycled craft for CBS. We are in need of glass jars. Any size from a pint to a quart - just the jar, not the lid. It would help us greatly if you could remove the label before bringing them to the Education office. We need about 200 jars by **December 2**, so all help is appreciated.



Gingerbread House Decorating Party

Parents and grandparents will love this special time with their children. Sign up today for your spot at the Gingerbread house decorating party. Cost is only \$5.00 and Good Shepherd church and Good Shepherd Preschool will provide everything you need to create a beautiful work of art with your children or grandchildren, including a souvenir photo.

The party will be held on **December 4** from 3-5:00 p.m. Sign up sheets are located in the main hallway. Please note that reservations are limited to 60 families and must be signed up by November 28.



Gospel Gathering

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 6:00 P.M.

The Gospel Gathering is a worship experience emphasizing gospel hymns and southern gospel music which meets the fourth Saturday of each month. On **November 26** the Gathering bridges the gap between Thanksgiving and the beginning of Advent with music and a message. Invite a friend to join you for the fellowship and worship.



Alternative Christmas Giving Gifts

Do you have friends or family with a heart for missions?

Give them a Christmas gift that will have a double impact! Select one or more of the following projects and place this form along with your check in the offering plate by Sunday, **December 18**. One hundred percent of your gift will be given to the projects you have selected and the gift recipient will receive an acknowledgment from the church on your behalf.

\$5 One night of shelter at the Rescue Mission, Fort Wayne.
 \$5 Share God's Word by giving a Bible through Gideon's International.
 \$10 Three meals worth of meat for an Associated Churches Food Bank family, Fort Wayne.
 \$10 Begin a flock of chicks for a needy farmer through Heifer Project
 \$15 Buys much needed medical supplies for Clinica Madre de Dios, Fort Wayne.
 \$15 Three days of food for a family in Appalachia through the UM Appalachia Hunger Project.
 \$20 One day of care for men and women in need at Lucille Raines Residence, Indianapolis.
 \$20 Supplies for Home Health and AIDS kits for Kissy Hospital in Sierra Leone.
 \$25 Medical supplies for Matthew 25 Medical Clinic, Fort Wayne.
 \$25 Furnishings for the school in Sierra Leone, Africa.

Your Name _____ Phone or E-mail _____

Send Acknowledgement Card to: _____



WARM WISHES SWEATSHIRT MINISTRY

Share warm Christmas wishes with the residents of the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission through the gift of a new sweatshirt for the winter months. All you have to do is pick up a gift tag from the basket in the narthex, purchase a new sweatshirt that corresponds with the size on your tag, wrap up the gift and bring it to the church. The sweatshirts will be distributed during our regular worship at the Rescue Mission on Tuesday, **December 13**, at 7:00 p.m. along with freshly baked holiday cookies. Pick up a sweatshirt, bake some cookies, join us for worship and share in "Warm Wishes" for the residents and staff of the Rescue Mission!



Angel Tree

Collection of Angel Tree items begins on **November 13** and ends on **December 11**. Please stop by the Christmas tree in the narthex and select a gift tag for a child and help make this a merry Christmas for those less fortunate. Items should be wrapped with the Angel Tree gift tag attached.

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*Thank You, Lord, for gentle reminders that
You are the reason for all that I do.*

The next STAFF Newsletter deadline is Friday, November 11.



Don't forget to turn your clock back. I'm going to turn mine back to when I was 20.

Time reverts to standard time at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday of November (November 6.)

This a great time to check and replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms.

Replace any smoke alarms older than ten years.

Replace any CO alarms older than five years.

The logo for Youth Drop-In Teen Ministry. The words "YOUTH DROP-IN" are in large, bold, blue and purple letters. Below that, "TEEN MINISTRY" is written in white on a black background. At the bottom, "The 1st & 3rd Friday of the Month" is written in white on a blue background.

**YOUTH
DROP-IN**
TEEN MINISTRY
The 1st & 3rd Friday of the Month