



The Journal

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JANUARY, 2008

IN THE BEGINNING

There is in Roman mythology a god named Janus. Janus is the god of doors, gates and beginnings. Janus is always pictured as a head with two faces, they are looking in opposite directions, one forward and one to the back. Though we don't believe in Janus, we do experience the truth of the myth. As we begin a new year we look back and see that we have had a lot of blessings in this year. There are also some goals that we did not accomplish that we will work on in 2008. Looking backward is good when it helps us to focus on the future.

Through Advent and Epiphany Sunday we are Gathering at the Manger. We gather there because we want to be where Jesus is. Through the experiences of this past year we know that Jesus is with us both on the mountaintops and in the valleys. The question is: are we where Jesus is calling us to be. I hope we will listen very carefully for God's call, because (and I say this from personal experience) we are not always anxious to be in the places and the ministries where God wants us to be. But with God's help we can respond and serve God through serving our neighbors.

So, where is God calling you to be in 2008? What is God calling you to do in 2008? Be ready, be watching, be willing and there is no telling what God will have you be doing before this year ends.

I invite you to Gather at the Manger, at the well, at the river, on the mountain and the plain, at the table, at the cross, at the tomb, by the lake; all the places where Jesus has been and where he invites us to be with him today.

God Bless you on your journey of faith.

Roger

UMYF IN JANUARY

UMYF will meet on January 6 and 20. On the 6th we will be going to a movie so we will let you know about the timing as the day gets closer. On the 20th we will be getting ready for WOW and planning for February.

WOW is January 26-27 in Springfield, MO. We have 12 people signed up to go and two more seats reserved on the bus. Call Roger if you want to join the group. (RNJ)

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JANUARY GREETERS

(8:30) Worship

January 6 - Martha Ann Keener

January 13 - Dorothy Reed

January 20 - Annette Robertson

January 27 - Carletta Samons

(10:45) Worship

January 6 - Linda Ault

January 13 - Phyllis Halliday

January 20 - Bettina Moxley

January 27 - Benj. B. Moore

COMMUNION AT THE MANOR

We will serve Holy Communion at the Manor on Tuesday, January 15, 9:30 am. You are invited to come and share in the service.

BIBLE STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Our Bible Study on the Gospel as written by Matthew continues in January beginning January 2. We will be starting in the middle of the Gospel (session 10, Chapter 18) but it is not too late to join. We meet at 9am on Wednesdays (8:30am on the first Wed. of the month) and on Sunday's at 7pm. You can choose to come either time and switch around if you have a conflict. Thus far we have noted that Matthew experiences God as One who breaks into the kingdoms of this world through the activity of the Holy Spirit and invites to be disciples in ways which are very different than the than the culture of the day expects. Is God still doing that today? What is God calling us to do? It is not too late to begin the study. Join us on Sunday or Wednesday. (RNJ)

UMW NEWS

The United Methodist Women will meet Wednesday, January 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Parlor.

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

The Southeast District will host a training event on Saturday, Jan. 26, on "Extravagant Generosity" featuring Dr. Michael Reeves. The event is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Dexter First UMC.

Dr. Reeves is senior associate pastor and director of strategic resources at St. Andrew UMC in Plano, TX, and is the author of several books.

Seminar topics include annual giving, capital campaigns and creative giving and endowments.

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Registration is due by Jan. 18.

REPORT ON CHURCH FINANCES

ABOVE AND BEYOND IS OVER AND ABOVE!

Last week our commitments to the **Above and Beyond Campaign** went **over and above** our goal! The Administrative Council had decided that any gifts received above the amount needed to pay off the church bonds would be used by the trustees in the repair and maintenance work that is planned for 2008. So it is not too late to participate in this wonderful success of the church. If you have been planning to give at the end of the year, waiting to see what was needed, or just want to wear one of those beautiful Above and Beyond buttons (;>) with pride of participation; you may still give a gift and know that it will be used on our church facilities.

On behalf of the Finance Committee and its chair, Glenn Ault; the Administrative Council and its chair, Stephen Burke; and from the bottom of my heart I say thank you so very much for your commitments, your gifts, and your prayers. You have been extravagantly generous in this year and I know that many of us have been inspired by the way this congregation has responded to this campaign. God really does love and bless us when we give generously, thankfully and cheerfully. Thank you so very much. Roger N. Jespersen

OUR CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2007

As I write this on Dec. 26 I can report that we have paid all of our apportionments, all of our Vital Ministries, and all of our bills. I believe that we will have some funds available to begin paying our 2008 apportionments in January. This means that you have also been generous in regular giving again this year. Your regular giving enables the church to reach out in faith to be faithful witnesses and servants, sharing our faith in Jesus, the Christ in this community and around the world. God bless you as you grow in your faith and in your faithfulness. (RNJ)

THANK YOU!!!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the care package and the homemade scarf. It's going to keep me warm on my long journey to class. I really appreciate you praying for me and thinking of me while I am a college. I can't wait to see everyone when I come home. Thanks again.

Love,
Kati Luehmann

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the care package.. I especially appreciated the prayer scarf. It is a real comfort to know that your church family is thinking about you when you are away at school. Look forward to seeing you over Christmas break!

Love,
Megan Luehmann

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the Halloween care package! The prayer shawl was so pretty and I can not wait to put it to good use this winter! I really enjoyed all the candy and goodies and my roommate was quite jealous! It is so nice to know that my church family continues to think of me even when I am so far away! Love you all lots and hope to see each of you over the holiday season!

Love,
Elana White

Dear Charleston United Methodist Church Members,

Thank you for the gift of \$300 that you gave to the Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center. Our mission is to help children and their families learn to live healthy, productive lives.

Sincerely,
Susanna Wesley Staff & Board

SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY**NURSERY:**

January 6 - Chelsea Stallings
January 13 - Brittany Stack
January 20 - Madeline Burke
January 27 - Natalie Brewer

ACOLYTES:

(8:30) January 6 & 13 - Jane Ellen Brink
January 20 - Courtney Beth Jones
January 27 - Layton Jones
(10:45) January 6 & 13 - Court Story
January 20 - Edward McClain
January 27 - Emily McClain

COMMUNION SERVERS:

(8:30) Charles & Dorothy Anne Brink & Peggy McNeary
(10:45) Bruce & Myrtle Austin & Sally Michael

HEAD USER:

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*Open Hearts, Open
Minds, Open Doors*

*MAKING
DISCIPLES*

*

*MAKING
A DIFFERENCE*

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**Scripture (from the lectionary) and Sermon Titles for January
(Titles subject to change daily) (Worship at 8:30 & 10:45pm; Sunday
School 9:30am)**

Sunday, January 6, We will Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion
“**Gathering at the Manger: The Wise Men**”

Psalm 72;1-14, Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 13, “**It Came From Heaven**”

Psalm 29, Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10;34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, January 20, “**A Very Personal God**”

Psalm 40:1-11, Isaiah 49:1-7, I Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 27, “**He Saw the Brothers**”

Psalm 27:1-9, Isaiah 9:1-4, I Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Riley Brown, III
3 - Ellie Malugen
4 - Glenn Nix
5 - David Austin
6 - Jim Burke, Julie McDowell Summers & Max Michael, Sr.
8 - Elizabeth Clevenger & Keaton Fitzgerald
9 - Charles Tinsley, III & David Malugen
12 - Margaret Shew, Al Drinkwater, Camille Dovin & Lane Morrow
13 - Marilyn Brown
14 - Myra Hillhouse
15 - Jeff Stack & Mildred Brokaw
16 - Charlie Harper & Justin Drinkwater
17 - Donna Fox
18 - John Drinkwater & Shelby Fox
19 - Laura Moore
20 - Vena Daughettee
21 - Catie Austin, Cole Moxley, Dorothy Moxley & Scott Boren
23 - June Drinkwater
25 - Janeen Hankinson
27 - Julie French & Alex Austin
28 - Ted Hunter
30 - Jennifer Miller
31 - Melissa Moxley, Emma Jones & Christy Foley

The staff would like to thank everyone who donated to the Christmas Bonus Fund.
It was a very generous gift.

Thank you to all who helped with the Christmas Eve service, the musicians,
greeters, ushers, acolytes, readers, etc.

Also, thanks to everyone who donated to the Poinsettia Fund.

We have more church note cards now available in the church office for \$5.00 a dozen.

THANK YOU!!!

Dear Church Family,

Since word has spread of my diagnosis, I have felt enveloped in your love and humbled by your concern. Now that I have the prayer shawl, I can be literally wrapped in a constant reminder of the prayers that you offer for me. I cannot tell you how much I need that and how grateful I am for it. Please keep praying for me as I will for you. Thank you from the most tender place in my heart.

In love,
Rebel Dugan

Dear United Methodist Church Family,

I would like to sincerely thank you for sending me care packages throughout my time at college. Not only do they let me know that I have a large group of people back at home that still care about me and support me, but they also make some pretty good snacks for me and my roommates. I am happy to say that I have now graduated from Mineral Area College and will be beginning Murray State University next semester. Once again, thank you very much for caring about and supporting me during this special time in my life.

Thank you,
Daniel White

A big thank you to the Children's Choir, Chancel Choir, Hand Bell Choir & organists for making our special services during Advent very special.

The 2008 Offering Envelopes are now available. They are on a table outside the church office. Come pick yours up.