

FAIRFAX MESSENGER

MAY 2011



305 N. Broadway
P.O. Box 318
Fairfax, MO. 64446

Office Hours: 8:00 am–12:00 pm
Mon–Thurs

Office: 660-686-3314

Fax: 660-686-9505

Email: umc@fairfaxmo.net

Website: www.fairfaxumc.net

Sunday Worship:

Sunday School - 9:30 am

Worship - 10:30 am

Channel 61 Broadcast - Tues.
4:00 pm

Wednesdays:

Promise Keepers - 6:00 am

Pastor Mike Eighmy

Study: 660-686-3314

Cell: 660-920-9030

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Giving Sacrificially

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A husband and wife who were traveling around the world saw a boy in Korea one day pulling a crude plow in a field, while an old man held the plow handles and directed it through the rice paddy. The husband was amused by the sight and took a snapshot of the scene.

“That’s very curious,” he remarked to the missionary who was their interpreter and guide. “I suppose they are poor.”

“Yes,” said the missionary. “That is the family of Chi Noui. When the church was built they were eager to give something to it, but they had no money, so they sold the only ox they had and gave the money to the church. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves.”

The husband and wife were silent. Then the wife said, “That was a real sacrifice.”

“They did not call it that,” said the missionary. “They thought it was fortunate they had an ox to sell.”

The two tourists had little to say, but, when they reached home, they took the photograph to the church and told their pastor about the incident. “We want to double our pledge to the church,” they said, “and give us some plow work to do. We never knew what gratitude or joy or sacrifice really meant until now.”

God spoke to this couple through their experience in Korea about the joy that comes from giving. In his Word, God speaks to all of us about the importance of giving. Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). He also said, “Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:8). If we choose not to give faithfully and generously, we forego the blessings that God gives to those who give cheerfully. There is no better time than now to examine your level of giving, and, if need be, to take a leap of faith and increase your giving. In the words of Winston Churchill, “We make a living by what we give; we make a life by what we give.”

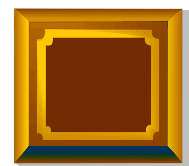
FRB Dedication

Dedication of the 2011 FRB growing projects was held Sunday evening, April 10. Following the dedication service all enjoyed a wiener roast. Harry and Mary Combs brought their fair rides for the children. Bob Sefrit provided a tractor and wagon ride. Approximately 25 people enjoyed the fellowship.

The deadline for donations to this year's projects is March 1st, 2012.



Hackett/Arnold Memorial Conference Room Dedication Sunday



Sunday, May 29th we will have our Dedication of our new Hackett/Arnold Memorial Conference Room during our 10:30 am worship service.



Following the service we will have a Pot-Luck Dinner in the fellowship hall.

Everyone is invited to come for this special occasion and to join us in the fellowship afterwards.

United Methodist Women

UMW ladies, namely Norma Bradfield, Marie Emrick and Barb Jones, visited Tiffany Heights Care Center in Mound City, Mo. on March 31, 2011. We visited Alice McCartney, Emma Jones, Lucyle Benne and other friends residing there. It was a good afternoon sharing Easter thoughts and church activities. Prayer was given to each. It was wonderful seeing them as we miss them in our daily lives. We left them in good spirits but as usual they gave us much more than we gave them.

Smiles and Christian love to each, Barb Jones

Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

Run the Race

“ . . . let us throw off everything that hinders . . . let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us ” (Hebrews 12:1), exhorts the writer to the Hebrews. Perhaps that writer was the Apostle Paul, for running a race is a phrase he often used. In Acts 20:24, he declared that he wanted to *“finish the race and complete the task . . . the task of testifying to the Gospel of God's grace.”* That task belongs to us as well as to Paul. We have been chosen by God to run the race for the sake of the Gospel. Like Peter and John, we *“cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard”* (Acts 4:20).

Certainly our words testify to the Gospel of God's grace, and so do our lives. That's why we are also involved in the race of holy living. In this race, we put aside the hindrances of sin and self-interest that would keep us from a close relationship with our Savior and that would give ammunition to those who wish to disparage the Christian faith.

Our race is by no means all downhill. Competing in this race requires strict discipline and a focus on the goal. Scripture urges us to keep our eyes on *“Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith”* (Hebrews 12:2). Like the faith heroes of old, we run the race for those who will follow not in our own strength, but by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament.

Perseverance is key in our race. Scripture challenges us to stand firm, knowing that our labor for God is not in vain. We're commanded to hold fast to our faith and to keep to God's ways. As we run the race with perseverance, we are filled with *“inexpressible and glorious joy”* (1 Peter 1:8) in our Savior in whom we believe, even though we haven't seen him. Although

the race is long and difficult, we have an eternal perspective and consider any suffering or distress but *“light and momentary troubles”* (2 Corinthians 4:17).

On the Lighter side

Garrison Keillor tells of a letter written from a local church to one of its members who was not present on pledge dedication Sunday, and, therefore, did not fill out a pledge card:

“Dear Anne and Joe: We missed you last Sunday, Pledge Sunday. Since you were not present to fill out your pledge card, and to make it easy for you, we have completed a pledge card for you. Thank you for being so generous. Your Finance Committee.”

Our culture now has “lite” everything on the market: butter, cheese, syrup, even beer. A suggestion arose regarding what a “lite” church might look like: perhaps a 45-minute worship service, a seven percent tithe, and only eight of the Ten Commandments. And you get to choose which eight!

Self-centered or God Centered

At different times throughout our lives, we all make the choice whether to serve ourselves or to be servants to others. If we make a practice of putting ourselves first, we will spend life joyless and empty, wondering why fulfillment escapes us.

Even though God never abandons us, we can elect to turn away him. God wants the best for us, and his best for us is that we deny ourselves and follow him. If we focus only on our earthly possessions and make it our top priority to take care of ourselves only, we push God out of our lives. Putting our own interests first, we become selfish and self-centered.

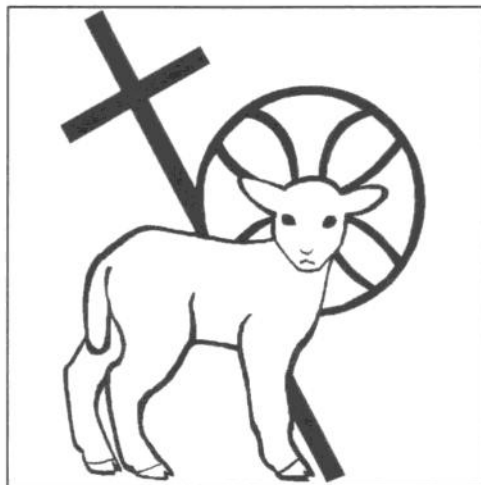


The Apostle Paul wrote that, as people redeemed by God’s mercy, we are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. He further said in Romans 12:2, *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”* Paul revealed the secret of the transformed mind to the Galatians. *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me”* (Galatians 2:20). Joy comes into our lives when God, instead of self, is the object of our love and worship. It was joy that compelled Jesus to endure the Cross (Hebrews 12:2).

The stewardship life is a life dedicated completely to God through faith in Jesus

Christ. Jesus said that if we would follow him, we *“must deny [ourselves] and take up [our] cross[es] and follow [him]”* (Matthew 16:24). The reward outweighs by far the sacrifice, for Christ promised in Matthew 16:25, *“Whoever loses his life for me will find it.”* Martin Luther said, “If anyone would rap at the door of my heart and ask, ‘Who lives here?’ I would answer, ‘Martin Luther once lived here. But Martin Luther has moved out and Jesus Christ has moved in.’ ” When Jesus has permanent residence within us, he can use us to build his kingdom among men.

Through God’s grace, we are transformed into “new creatures” (2 Corinthians 5:17) willing to live lives that honor him with all that we are and have. God’s love and generosity are seen through us as we recognize the opportunities God places before us to share our time, talents, and treasures in the building up of his kingdom.



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

May 2011

Fairfax United Methodist Church

PO Box 318, 305 N. Broadway, Fairfax, MO 64446 ❖ 660-686-3314 ❖ umc@fairfaxmo.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 <i>Mother's Day</i>	9 <i>Admin Council Meeting</i> 7:00 pm	10	11 <i>Promise Keepers: 6:00am</i> <i>UMM E.E.</i>	12	13	14 <i>Extending Hands of</i> <i>Friendship 8am-12pm</i> <i>Church Work Day</i> 8am-12pm
15 <i>Fairfax Graduation: 4pm</i> <i>Jill Riley's Graduation</i> <i>Reception in the fellow-</i> <i>ship hall 5:30pm</i>	16	17	18 <i>Promise Keepers: 6:00am</i>	19	20	21
22 <i>Spaghetti Dinner Chil-</i> <i>dren's Stewardship Fund-</i> <i>raiser following worship</i> <i>Pleasant View Nursing</i> <i>Home UMC has Worship</i> <i>Service at 3:30pm</i>	23 <i>Fairfax High School</i> <i>Awards Assembly</i>	24 <i>Deadline for June</i> <i>Newsletter</i>	25 <i>Promise Keepers: 6:00am</i> <i>UMM: 6:00pm</i>	26	27	28
29 <i>Hackett/Arnold Memorial</i> <i>Conference Room</i> <i>Dedication Sunday with</i> <i>Poluck Dinner following</i>	30 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 	31	<i>Office Angels will be</i> <i>needed in the afternoon</i>		<i>Worship Schedule</i> <i>Sunday School: 9:30am</i> <i>Worship: 10:30am</i> <i>Channel 61: 4:00pm Tues</i>	<i>Office Hours</i> 8:00 am—12:00 pm Mon.—Thurs. 660-686-3314 umc@fairfaxmo.net

Growing in Wisdom & Faith Word Search



- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Ask | Meekness |
| Character | Mercy |
| Complete | Obedience |
| Doer | Partiality |
| Endurance | Patience |
| Faith | Perseverance |
| Give | Read the word |
| Growing | Seek |
| Heart | Share the word |
| Heir | Slow to anger |
| Humility | Slow to speak |
| James | Suffering |
| Joy | Temptation |
| Kindness | Thankfulness |
| Knowledge | Tongue |
| Love | Trials |
| Maturity | Warnings |

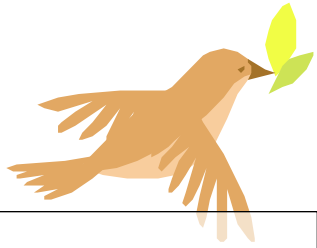
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Thanks to Alex Arzuéles

03-25-2011

EVERYBODY ELSE MERELY TALKS ABOUT SURVEYING THE WONDROUS CROSS...
HE ACTUALLY DID IT



**The Senior Class of Fairfax High School
announces its Graduation Ceremony
Sunday afternoon,
May Fifteenth,
Two Thousand Eleven
Four o'clock
Fairfax High School Gymnasium**

Pastor Robert and Carly Sefrit announce the birth of their son, Dietrich Asher, born March 16th. He is welcomed home by his 21 month old sister, Calla Elizabeth. Paternal grandparents are Bob and Amy Sefrit. They all share their heartfelt thanks to their church family for the prayers and concerns shared for Asher's safe arrival.

*Please come help Jill Riley celebrate her Graduation!
The reception will be held on Sunday, May 15th at 5:30 pm at the Fairfax United Methodist Church fellowship hall.*

*What's the deal with Sandy's purple hat?
Join us on Sunday, May 8th...*

May Birthdays

Aimee Riley	05/01
Dean Martin	05/04
Lisa Mitchell	05/05
Amber Lewis	05/06
Goldie Barnes	05/12
Connie Hall	05/12
Alan Bradfield	05/14
Kara Vette	05/18
Margaret Kincannon	05/19
Lacy Carlson	05/24
Mark Sly	05/25
Mary Wasserfallen	05/26
Holly Barnes	05/27
Bob Jones	05/30

May Anniversaries

Harry & Mary Combs 05/30

If you or your loved ones are not on the list, contact the church office: umc@fairfaxmo.net or 686-3314 with your info and we will get our records updated.

Thank you to all who brought food for the Tarkio Food Pantry. Twelve bags of sugar and eight other food items were delivered to the food pantry this month.

HOTLINES:

- Child Abuse and Neglect ----- 1-800-392-3738
- Elderly Abuse and Neglect---- 1-800-392-0210
- Gambling Addiction ----- 1-888-BETSOFF
----- (1-888-238-7633)
- Mental Health Crisis Line ---- 1-800-392-0280
- Missouri School Violence ----- 1-866-748-7047
- Poison Control ----- 1-800-392-9111
- Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence
----- 1-800-548-2480
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-TALK
----- (1-800-273-8255)

Thank You

The United Methodist Women's Evening Edition

UMW E.E. met on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, in the church conference room. Members present were: Lois Wiley, Charla Graves, Sandy Burke, Jan Taylor, and Gale Ball.

The group unanimously voted to donate \$500 to the trustees to help complete the expenses for the women's restroom project. The group felt that a donation should be given to Karen Kirkland, missionary to China, who was here and gave several talks to our church. The group decided that \$100 would be sent this quarter and then send quarterly donations to her organization.

Final plans were completed for the upcoming Fundraising dinner at the church which is set for Sunday, April 17th. Ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, rolls and cakes will be served.

Jan Taylor informed the group that May 7th from 8:00 a.m. until noon has been designated as "clean our church" day. The group decided that if there were several things that could be sold, then the UMW EE group would sponsor a garage sale for these items.

Charla Graves gave an interesting devotion from the Girlfriends in God web site. When God is "at the wheel," every circumstance we face is in His hand and under His control. Praise turns trials into faith-builders as we learn to measure our problems against His limitless power, transforming the stumbling blocks of today into stepping stones for tomorrow.

Our next meeting is May 11th. Details of the meeting place and time will be determined on May 7th after we clean the church.

*Respectfully Submitted
Gale Ball*

Church Work Day

The Witness committee is organizing a major sort out and clean-up of the church. We will have a work day on Saturday morning, May 7th from 8:00 until noon. This is a very big job and will require everyone working together; Methodist Men, U.M.W., Sunday school classes and teachers, and people from all committees. Simply put, if you are a member of our church, we NEED you! In order to comply with our church insurance company's policy, many things will need to be removed from the church. If you have knowledge of items in the church that you feel should or should not be discarded, this is your opportunity to be present and help with the sorting task.



Pony Express UMW

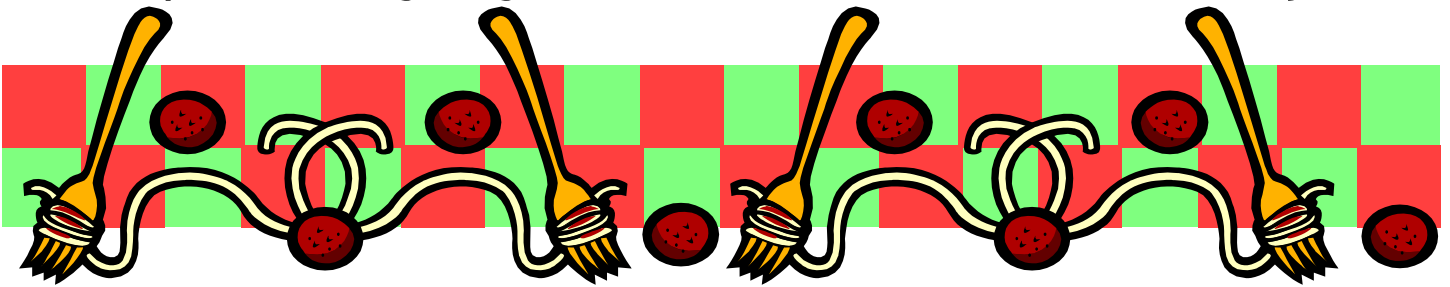
Pony Express UMW District Officers traveled to our church on April 16, 2011 and arrived at 9:00 am. The eight officers were greeted by Mary Anne Pennel and Barb Jones. They were served Breakfast Pizza, Fruit, Muffins, Cookies, Apple Juice and Coffee. They started their meeting at 9:30 am and closed at Noon. They spent the time planning the Pony Express UMW District meeting which will be held in St. Joseph, Mo. at the Wesley United Methodist Church on April 30, 2011. We gave them a brief tour of our church after the meeting and they thought our church was beautiful and they admired all the improvements. We expressed our thanks for dedicated church members past and present.

Smiles and Christian love, Barb Jones

Children's Stewardship Project

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

On Sunday, May 22nd
following our 10:30 am worship service,
the children will be offering a
Spaghetti Dinner (*freewill donation*)
with proceeds going towards their Tables/Chairs Project.



The children's goal is 17 tables...and they've met that goal!!!!

They have currently raised: \$1,386.00

Now we will continue our fundraiser for the chairs
(4 Chairs for \$80)

—Perhaps you would like to buy chairs in honor of your family?
Or in memory of a loved one—

Please fill out the certificate below and mail it with your payment to the church office.

I would like to purchase chairs (4/\$80)...

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Name: _____

Address/State/Zip _____

Mail completed certificate, along with payment, to:
Fairfax UMC, PO Box 318, Fairfax, MO 64446

Extending Hands of Friendship



The Fairfax United Methodist Church would like to extend a hand of friendship by helping members of the Fairfax Community.

We are a group of individuals with various abilities and talents, and a desire to serve. The first Saturday of every month we are willing to do some yard, garden, or housework for you. We can wash your windows, wash your car, or do small odd jobs around the house that you cannot or "should not" do yourself. Maybe it's something as small as changing light bulbs or getting groceries. Maybe it's something larger, like a small repair in your home. Please call our church office and give a brief description of the job/jobs you need completed, your name and address, and phone number. Someone from the church will then call you back and let you know who will be coming and the time they will be arriving to help you. The church phone number is 686-3314.

**Our first work day will be Saturday, May 7th from 8:00 am - 12:00 noon.
Let us know how we can help you!**

Address Service Requested

Fairfax United Methodist Church
305 N. Broadway
P.O. Box 318
Fairfax, MO 64446

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