



# Happy New Year!

**First United  
Methodist Church**

**January 2012**

## “Pastor’s Notes”

**Rev. Bethann Black**

When I started on my journey of faith at the age of 14 I made a silent pledge as I stood at the altar to live my life as God wanted me to. I didn’t know much of what that would involve, and I had no idea how to talk to others about my experience of God, because before having my own encounter with God I had not found anyone willing to answer my questions about why they believed. This meant that it was another 16 years before I would really even say out loud to anyone other than my closest friends that I believed in God. And as strange as it seemed to me at 14 to talk to anyone about God, it seems as strange today to not talk about how God impacts every aspect of my life. What hasn’t changed is that it is as dangerous today to talk about how God has revealed himself to me. As dangerous because just as there are people willing to dismiss a teenagers experiences as fantasy or unimportant, there are just as many willing to dismiss any witness to God’s actions in the world today. Despite this I have found that the world needs us to be brave enough to speak out about how God is impacting our lives. People need to hear the stories of how God has given us strength or helped us find our way in the world because if they don’t the only time they hear about God is when someone blames him for the tragedies that happen.

Yet what we should never forget is that it takes courage to speak about God. Courage to even try to put into words who God is to us. Praying that you have courage in the new year to speak of God’s actions in your life.

Peace & Joy in Christ, Rev. Bethann

**Sunday, January 22, 2012 During worship the McClellan Sisters will be singing and leading us in worship. The services will be followed by a pot luck lunch. Bring your friends and neighbors for this time of worship and fellowship.**

Sunday School: 9:30am  
Worship Service: 10:45am  
Business Office Hours:  
Tues - Thurs  
8:30am to 12:30pm  
Other times by appointment

Phone: 785-472-3870  
Fax: 785-472-6054  
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Ellsworth, KS 67439  
Temp-Return Service Requested



**First United Methodist  
Church**

## Leadership & Team Notes

### Leadership Team Notes:

Our Church Charge Conference document of October 24, 2011, states the following about the Leadership Team, "Its primary responsibility is long range planning and visioning for the church." This is a different responsibility than our previous Administrative Council. Thus, our meetings look and feel different. As I have said before, team point persons are expected to attend, and all members of the congregation are encouraged to attend. Our meetings are scheduled from 7:00 – 8:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

During on December meeting the Kansas Area UMC "Vital Congregations" handout was introduced. It states that a vital congregation has: a) inviting and inspiring worship, b) engaged disciples in mission and outreach, c) gifted, equipped and empowered lay leadership, d) effective, equipped, and inspired clergy leadership, and e) small groups and strong children's programs and youth ministry. The Vital Congregation planning guide is designed as an aid to help us set goals, and it fits the Team responsibility of long range planning. (A copy of the Vital Congregation handout is located on the Conference and our church website. I can also get you a hard copy if you are interested.)

Each month, the Leadership Team meeting will include the discussion and completion of a section of the Vital Congregations planning guide. A summary of our December discussion is included in the Leadership Team Meeting notes that are posted on the church website. In January we will review "Building

Blocks of a Vital Congregation"

The 2012 Church budget was reviewed and approved in the December meeting. The finance team report will provide more detail, and you are welcome to review the summary in the Leadership Team Meeting notes.

Thank you for your prayers and support of our ministries.

Kline Kelly

### Notes from Discipleship Team:

Based on the feedback from the nursery survey, we are working on Scheduling a Safe Sanctuaries and basic first aid training for January. This will be for new nursery workers and others who need to either renew or get this training to work with kids or youth in the church.

Ray asked for help filling 2 positions in connection to the Finance Team. One is the need for additional person for the Audit which will need to be done in February 2012. Roberta agreed to contact the individuals we thought of and ask them if they would be willing to help with this. The second position that needs to be filled is Financial Secretary this is a new position that we attempted to fill for the first time last year; names were shared but before anyone is contacted Ray will meet and discuss this further with the Finance and Stewardship Team. ***(Gerry Gebhardt and Trisha Janssen have agreed to serve on the audit team)***

In trying to figure out what we want to do to build the foundation for being able to identify people for leadership and to provide a variety of opportunities for people to grow in discipleship we continued discussions about using the "Equipped for Every Good Work" material to identify spiritual gifts.

Beyond these topics stories were shared about different kinds of activities that have been done in the past or at other churches that have been

fun and meaningful a goal that the group agreed on was to have at least a couple BIG events a year to bring people together in the church.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 at the church;

Submitted by Bethann

### Notes from the Worship Task team:

For the special service in January we will be having the McClellan sisters and female quartet from Nebraska. Due to scheduling the service will be on January 22nd. Join us for worship followed by a pot luck meal in the fellowship hall.

### Trustee Team Notes:

December 7, 2011 – by Rev. Bethann Black

Since the meeting the back door has been repaired. And the front door will be soon.

Sylvia did have someone look at the top step regarding repair of the carpet and it is feasible to just put a strip across that area. Roger McCaulley will do the work.

Action was taken to put the bus up for sale due to work and maintenance cost. It was sold just before Christmas. the funds will be added to the already designated funds for the van, which can then either be used for maintenance or purchase of other vehicles.

Next Meeting: January 4th @ 7:00 pm



## Kids of the Kingdom/Kids With A Mission

What is the impact of 100 children Christmas caroling in Ellsworth, Kansas? We do hope it was a positive experience for all who were downtown or at the Pines, Drovers, Good Sam, and Prairie West on December 14. The children had a wonderful time, singing, walking around without coats in the beautiful weather, and generally spreading some Christmas cheer along the way. One hundred kids!! Isn't that amazing?? For many, the beloved songs of the season are new.

Seeing Christmas through the eyes of a child is awesome! The wonder, the joy, the mystery of God coming to earth as a baby—things we adults take for granted—are new and curious- and worth pondering!



One person's contribution, like the boy's fish and bread in the Bible, may not be much, but God was working, too, and 5,000 people were fed. One frazzled volunteer may not feel needed, but God is working, too- and many children are being fed. Thanks be to God for each and every prayer, donation, time volunteered, and encouragement given. Little is much when God is in it!

Merry CHRISTmas and Happy HOLYdays!



In addition to the weekly meetings each Wednesday at 7pm in the church basement, here are a couple of up-coming special dates:

**Youth** Next meeting Jan 11th  
Ice Skating Wichita- Jan 14

“”Beginning in 2007 Tina Burtzloff has been collecting and mailing in used/empty printer ink cartridges and old cell phones to a company who will pay for the empties with all the money received going into the United Methodist Women's Treasure. These items are collected at the back entry door to the church.. During this time, four years, the United Methodist Women have been reimbursed a total of \$145.11. Every penny helps the women as they work on mission projects. Please continue to bring your empty and used cartridges and cell phones to the church. “””

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.ellsworthumc.com](http://www.ellsworthumc.com)



Ellsworth Correctional Facility  
P.O. Box 107  
Ellsworth, KS 67439-0107

Ray Roberts, Secretary of Corrections  
Dan Schnurr, Warden



Ellsworth Correctional Facility

phone: (785) 472-5501  
fax: (785) 472-8365  
ecfi@doc.ks.gov  
www.doc.ks.gov

Sam Brownback, Governor

December 12, 2011

Dear Friends,

Once again we ask, "How would we ever be able to make a difference in the lives of those incarcerated were it not for people such as you?" Thank you so much for your donation.

Something as simple as a small Christmas package is appreciated so much by those incarcerated. Christmas is a very sad time for inmates as you might imagine. It's the holiday above all holidays that you want to spend time with family and loved ones. Because of their past behavior and crimes, this is not possible for them. No one wants to excuse why they are here, but at the same time, we want to try to change their thinking and behavior so that when they are released back into society, they will emerge as a better person.

Now you might ask, "How will giving a Christmas package make a difference?" It makes a difference because someone thinks of them. It makes a difference because someone believes that they can and will become a better person. It makes a difference in some who have never in their lives received a Christmas package because of poverty, neglect, absentee fathers or drug and alcohol abuse that was their childhood.

We in the Spiritual Life Center believe God has helped us and used you, our friends as his tools. We are grateful. As we enter the season to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ, we wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Yours In Christ,

Ellen Russell  
Chaplaincy Admin. Asst.

### Prayer concerns:

Kathy Johnson; Emily Haxton; ; Dan Winston;  
Tess Modrow Don Steele, Shaun Williams

### Deb Furgason, UMW President

#### UMW News

The New Circle Honor and  
Glory will meet at the pines on January 12. With  
Deb and Sam as hostess

### January 12th Circles:

2pm—Faith & Hope  
7pm—Honor & Glory

Thank you to the youth for and the leaders for visiting  
and bringing casseroles and Christmas caroling.



Dorothy Thomas & Hootie

Neva Chastain

Wilma Mall

Thank you for your support in these difficult times. God  
uses you to keep the doors open at Family Connections  
Center.

Director & Staff

**Task Force**

Margaret Long (472-3927)

Judy Scritchfield (472-4168)

**Table & Chair Set-Up AND Take-Down**

Murray Marston (472-5455)

*(If you or your organization need tables and chairs set up for an event, please contact the Table & Chair Set-Up person or the Methodist Men.*

**Bulletin Mission Outreach**

	<u>Good Sam</u>	<u>Shut-Ins</u>
I-7	Gebhardts	Dora Maze
I-14	Wilma Mall	Sharon Marsh
I-21	Rosemary Whitley	Harvey Harts
I-28	Dorothy Thomas	Ed Hoffhines

(\* Deliver Upper Rooms)

Questions? please contact Dora Maze 472-3640. Thanks!

**Nursery Workers**

Justice &amp; Jerika Mitchell

**Subs**

Cara Hall, Whitney DePoy, Ann Ridinger, Judy Sneath, Josh & Amanda Webb, Jan Bontrager

(For questions about the nursery schedule please contact the church office)

**Children's Time**

1st—Rev. Bethann

8th— Lu Adams

15th—

22nd—

29th—

(If you'd like to do Children's Time, please contact Lu Adams at 472-3856)

**Bus Ministry**

1st - Kort Hawks (810-8016)

8th -

15th - Mason May (472-4261)

22nd - Allen Nicholas (472-3783)

29th -

(If you'd like to be a bus driver please contact Kort Hawks)

**Guardian Angels**

1st—Pat Allen

8th—Janice Black

15th—Judy Sneath

22nd—Jean Soukup

29th—Roger McCaulley

(If you'd like to be a Guardian Angel, please contact Shaun Williams 472-5704)

**Liturgist**

1st—Ann Ridinger

8th—Lu Adams

15th—Jean Soukup

22nd—Ken Cravens

29th—Keith Adams

(If you'd like to be a Liturgist, please contact the church office 472-3870)

**Altar Flowers**

The Honor & Glory Fellowship is in charge of Altar Flowers.

**Internet Websites for:****Ellsworth 1st United Methodist**[www.ellsworthumc.com](http://www.ellsworthumc.com)**For Church & Youth:****Check us out on facebook!****Acolytes**

1st—Stephanie

8th—Macey &amp; Gentry

15th—Stephanie &amp; Hayley

22nd—Darrell

29th—Eli &amp; Dylan

(If you'd like to be an Acolyte, please contact Pat Allen 472-3741)

**Ushers**

Gerry Gebhardt, Head Usher

Rob Ellegood

Curt Glaser

Allen Nicholas

Clint Glaser

(If you'd like to be an usher, please contact Ron Rathbun 472-3332)

Hutchinson District Office

[www.hutchinsondistrictumc.org](http://www.hutchinsondistrictumc.org)

Kansas West Conference Office

[www.kswestumc.org](http://www.kswestumc.org)

United Methodist Website

[www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

General Board of Disciples

[www.gbord.org](http://www.gbord.org)