

Volume 9, Issue 1

January 25, 2012



DEXTER 1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Dexter Connection

Loving, Learning, and Living in Christ

Church Council

Approves

New Contemporary Service

Scheduled Start Date: August 5, 2012

I have a burden that lays heavy on my heart. Try as I might, I can't lift the weight and escape. I will be honest, sometimes I wish I could, but I can't. It is there, it is always there, because God placed it there. This burden takes many shapes and comes in many forms, but culminates in my heart-felt burden – *The Lost*. The Lost, those people who for sundry reasons have not been connected to Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Good people, honest people, loving people, caring people, but *Lost People*.

Somehow the church, and the people that make up the Church, have lost the sense of urgency for the very people that matter most to God – *The Lost* – the very reason why Christ came, the very reason Christ was crucified, and the very reason Christ instituted His Church. Somehow, we must reclaim this urgency if we are to be faithful to our Lord and His Church – not our church -- His Church.

In many ways, we live as if following Jesus means living tucked away within the impenetrable walls of our comfort zones. We reason, "God wouldn't want me to be risky or to do something that would make me uncomfortable." But here's the truth -- fully following Jesus requires risk. We've got one life, and if the Church really is the world's only hope, we had better make the most of our time. We can make a difference, but not by playing it safe. We just have to make a move. Listen, if we don't storm the world with the love of Jesus, who will?

On January 16, 2012, the Church Council of Dexter First United Methodist Church made that historic move! They voted to take a risk and step out in bold faith. They voted to accept the proposal of the *Contemporary Service Exploratory Committee*. It was not an easy decision. Taking a risk and stepping out in bold faith is never easy and it never should be – but a decision was made. Now that the decision has been made, the congregation needs to make it's move. The members of the congregation need to get behind the decision of their Church Council and support it 100%.

January 16, 2012, was a historic day for Dexter First United Methodist Church. It was also the day our nation celebrated the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King. I end with a quote from the great civil rights leader. "Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase."

Michael

Our Prayer Ministry

Current Prayer Requests

Family of Delmer Barks, Margaret Cravens, Brenda Dowdy, family of Dick Dirnberger, Jack Dunlap, Beverly Smyth Good, Noreen Hyslop, Deana Jones, Junior Laird, family of Joyce McQuary, Marie Medcalf, Karyl Minson, Jerry & Karen Kiger, Pat Monehan, Kitty Northington, Kyle Smith, Mark Snider, family of John Vines, family of Susan Watkins

Our Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Joyce Clark upon the death of her sister, Ellen Dowdy; to Steve McQuary & Susan Pullam upon the death of their mother, Joyce McQuary; to Melba Baker upon the death of her sister, Helen Beauchamp; to Dana Lovins upon the death of her grandmother, Ruby Dowdy.

Special Giving

In memory of Larry Matthews - Mary Jane Mayfield, Cyndie & Jim Davies, Mary Ann Culbertson. In memory of Helen Beauchamp-Bea McKillip. In memory of Maude Wise-Bea McKillip. In memory of Tom Patten-Ken & Emily Owens. In memory of Ellen Dowdy-the Climbers Class.

Care Center Residents

Golden Living Center: Peggy Matthews
Central Gardens: Gordon & Mary Hill, Charlene Robertson
Cypress Point: Karen Tippen, Imogene Arnold, Wilma Quick, Kathryn Boyt
Crowley Ridge: Joyce Wamble, Lucille White, J.C. Larsen, Dalora Schmittzehe
Ratliff Care Center: Rena Ellis

Remember those in our Armed Services

Katie Alsup, Rose Blackman, Travis Choat, Cody Conner, Dr. David Mathis, Michael Fisher, Jessica Freeman, Chris Gerecke, Justin Hunsperger, Tyler Inman, Rachel Long, Scott Mattingly, Todd McGhee, Elliott Miller, Christopher Simmering, Luke Snider, Sarah & Jamie Sparks, Owen Stephens, Zach Taylor, Dr. Joseph Thompson, David Wilcoxson, Matt Worley.

Pairs & Spares Trip

The Pairs & Spares Senior Group of Dexter UMC received a special Christmas gift when they were invited to tour the historic home of Robert & Kay Hamblin on Themis Street in Cape Girardeau. The Hamblins, who have written a book ("This House, This Town") shared the history of the home and its early owners, the Harris family and the Harrison family. The Pairs and Spares were also treated to traditional Christmas refreshments by the host and hostess.

With Shirley Alexander in the driver's seat of the church bus, the group also viewed the Christmas light display in the Cape North Park, did some shopping, and ate at the Cracker Barrel before returning to Dexter. We would like to thank Shirley for driving the bus, and Larry Reid for making the arrangements for the tour.

The Pairs and Spares meet regularly on the first Monday of the month, with the exception of the Mondays that fall on holidays, at the Airport Café at 8:30 a.m. in the separate dining room. We welcome you to come join us anytime.



Our New Church Directory

We expect our new church directories to be shipped by the end of February. Each family that was photographed will receive a free directory. Everyone else may purchase a directory for \$5 per copy.

Youth News

- Thank you to all who participated in the Youth Soup/Salad Lunch and the Pie Auction. The total raised from this fundraiser was \$1,183.66.
- On February 22 we will have joint UMY from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. due to the Ash Wednesday Service.

Youth Worship Service

This Sunday - January 29
10:30 a.m.
Wesley Hall

Adopt An Apportionment

The Finance Committee asks that groups and individuals consider adopting an apportionment again this year. The funds included in our 2012 apportionments range from \$125 to \$5,897. You may contribute all or a portion of any fund. Each month we will spotlight one or more of these funds for your consideration.

District Superintendent Fund

\$4,322

The fund covers salaries, utilities, travel, professional expenses, and continuing education for the 12 district superintendents who serve this conference. The superintendents provide assistance and resources to local churches, districts, annual conference, the bishop (in appointing pastors), and clergy (pastoral care).

Connectional Ministries

\$4,401

This fund is comprised of Camping & Retreat Ministries, Central Methodist University, Youth Council, Communications Commission, Safe Sanctuaries, Conference Staff, and Congregational Ministries Team. It also provides funds for Annual Conference.

Mission, Service, & Justice Ministries

\$1,096.00

This fund helps with the Global Connections Team, Office of Creative Ministries, Mozambique Initiative, Social Justice Team, and the Values Team.

From the Choir Director

Wanted

Person or persons to assist in the 10:30 service with the sound system. We are trying to form a team so that the responsibilities are not so great for one person.

Benefit Package

Fun and fellowship with a GREAT group of folks known as the choir.

Salary

The heavenly reward will be outstanding and glorifying- I am positive of that!!

Contact

MaryRuth Boone, 820-3516

In Our Mailbox

Thank you so much for all the prayers, kindness, and food from the Climbers Class and other members. Thank you so much for the donation to our church in her memory. The loss of Ellen has left a huge emptiness in our hearts. The Ellen Dowdy family



February 22, 2012
Service at 6:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

W. Michael Woods, Pastor

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Dexter MO 63841

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Next Issue - February 22

Address Correction Requested

United Methodist Men



**CHILI
SUPPER**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Bunko
Party**



The Agape Circle is planning another fun-filled Bunko Party for the ladies in our community on Sunday, March 4, at 2:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall. The cost to play is \$10, with all donations going directly to 18 Fore Life. Snacks, drinks, and prizes will be provided. Put this date on your calendar now, and plan to attend!