



The Perfect Gift!

“For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given...” Isaiah 9:6a

While on vacation, I had the opportunity to do a little cyber surfing on the internet. Wow! There are tons and tons (metric tons...mega tons) of information to be gleaned – some good, some not so good. One interesting article I came across focused on the “high end” section of the department store, *Neiman Marcus*.

For those fortunate people who have managed to survive the current financial crisis facing the world and our own corner of this great nation, it could very well be that *Neiman Marcus* has the perfect Christmas Gift for that special person in your life.

How about a yurt? No, I didn't misspell the last word. *Neiman Marcus* has the perfect yurt for the discriminate buyer. For those of you who don't know what a yurt is, a yurt is a nomadic tent from Mongolia. Of course, the yurt *Neiman Marcus* offers is a cut above the rest. It is 18 feet in diameter, hand-painted, packed wall to wall with one-of-a-kind down-filled pillows, and supports its own crystal chandelier – the perfect gift for that Boy Scout in your family.

If a yurt is not to your liking, maybe you should consider a \$125,000 library. This library has great carpets, artful bric-a-brac, and paintings...and you get to choose 250 books of your choice.

And, if you really want to impress your friends and relatives, you can buy a series of flower shows. For only \$450,000 you and nine of your friends will be flown by private jet to the Tulip Festival in Switzerland, the Kifissai Flower Show in Athens, and the Altera Fose Festival in Avignon. Of course, you won't want to miss the Chelsea Flower Show in London. That's included too.

Last, but not least, I think I have the perfect gift for you this Christmas. This perfect gift does not come from *Neiman Marcus*. This perfect gift can give you more comfort and security in the storms of life than a Mongolian tent. This perfect gift will bring you greater wisdom than the combined wisdom of a 250 book library. This perfect gift will bring more peace and serenity than all the flower shows in the world. This perfect gift comes from God. This perfect gift is free for the taking. This perfect gift is the Christ Child of Bethlehem.

To take advantage of this offer, be sure to enter in the coupon code: COMEN2MYHEART.

Michael

POINSETTIAS

We still have plenty of poinsettias available for purchase. Fill out the order form on the back page or contact the church office.



Our Prayer Ministry

Current Prayer Requests

Kathryn Boyt, Clark baby, Verna Godwin, Rick Grossman, Marie Hicks, Mike Howell, Sarah Polsgrove Jarrell, Deana Jones, Garrett Kyle, family of Francis Lee, family of Linda McCane, family of Larry Matthews, Joyce McQuary, family of Tom Patten, family of Karen Pippins, family of Kim Morgan, Miles Schmid, Janie Smelser, John Vines, Lucille White

Our Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Peggy Matthews and her family upon the death of her husband, Larry Matthews. To Mancy Patten and her family upon the death of her husband, Tom Patten. To Larry & Carol White upon the death of their niece, Kim Morgan.

Special Giving

In memory of Kim Morgan: Gene & Janice McCane. In memory of Larry Matthews: Elmer & Virgie Wilson, Mike & Kristi Williams, Chuck & Janice Asbery, Gene & Janice McCane, The Circle of Faith, Gloria Hampton, Peggy Palmer, Scott & Cynthia Chesser, Southwest Elementary Employees, Don & Andrea Backfisch, Larry & Loretta Reid, Jerry Overfelt, Joe Weber, Mary Sue McKay, Lynda Lovins, Harriet Sedlacek, Lehman & Verna Godwin, Joe & Cindy Nichols, Mary Matthews. In memory of Tom Patten: Mike & Kristi Williams, the Circle of Faith, Gloria Hampton, Joe Weber. In memory of Frances Lee: Lehman & Verna Godwin.

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

Bloomfield Golden Living Center: Joyce McQuary

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.

The Giving Tree

The Agape Circle invites you to share the joy of Christmas with a child through the Giving Tree. You are asked to take one or more ornaments from the tree on November 27,



December 4, or December 11. Place your name and information on half the ornament and drop it in the box provided near the tree. Keep the other half and attach it to your gift. Two needy families with children in Southwest school along with the Mother to Mother Program and the Stoddard County Children's Home will be the recipients of your generosity. Ornaments for the Children's Home will say gift card. These cards enable the house parents to take the children out for a special meal or to purchase items as they are needed. Please return your gifts to the church by Wednesday, December 14. Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little brighter for a child in need.

Great Job

Thanks to Kay Plummer, Miki Keathley, Elke Powell, Jeanne Baker, Brian Crawford, Megan Keller, Jean Isbell, Marge Elam & Donna Keller for decorating our church for Christmas. It looks absolutely beautiful!

Thanks also to Ralph Jackson, Shelia Jackson, and Misti Lilly for setting up the Christmas trees in the sanctuary & Wesley Hall.

A new tree was purchased for Wesley Hall this year. Contact Shelia Jackson or the church office if you would like to make a contribution to help pay for the tree.



Christmas Dinner & Children's Program

Come to Wesley Hall on Sunday, December 4, at 5:00 p.m. for a special evening with your church family. We will share a holiday meal and then be filled with the spirit of Christmas as our children present "Sing a Song of Christmas."

The Nurture Committee will provide turkey, ham, rolls, and drinks for the meal. You are asked to bring vegetables, salads, casseroles, and desserts to share. Volunteers are needed to help with the meal. Call Judy Rimel at 614-4154 if you can help with preparations or clean up.



Everyone is welcome, so invite your family and friends to join us.

Christmas Cantata

The Chancel Choir is proud to present "We Celebrate the King," a wonderful Christmas cantata on Sunday, December 11. This cantata combines the classic, traditional carols with new songs of worship to deliver the Christmas message in a fresh and exciting way. Invite your friends and family to take part in the joy of "We Celebrate the King." The choir will present the cantata at three separate times - the 8:15 and 10:30 worship services and in a special candlelight presentation at 5:30 p.m. It is sure to be a blessing for you and your family and set the stage for a wonderful Christmas season!

The Perfect Gift **First UMC Blood Drive**

Monday, December 12, 2011
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Wesley Hall

Give the gift that everyone wants, but money can't buy. **Give blood. Give life.**

Ladies Movie Night

All women are invited to a movie night in the Loft Theater on Thursday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m. We will be watching "The Help." You are asked to bring any size children's underwear or socks to be donated to the Children's Home. Popcorn and soda will be provided.

A Meaningful Holiday Gift

Heifer International

Take part in a growing holiday tradition by giving gifts that help those in need through Heifer International. Heifer's values-based training ignites the transformational thinking and disciplined behavior that is necessary for Heifer participants to escape poverty for good. For each gift of \$10 or more, you will receive an Honor Card for your family and/or friends. Please contact the church office at 624-3344 to give a gift or for more information. Checks should be made payable to Dexter UMC.

In Our Mailbox

Dear friends, We are so appreciative of your prayers for the Vines family and grateful for your prayerful support. Thank you for reaching out in Christian love. Yours in Christ, Nancy Vines.

Words cannot express our family's gratitude for your kindness during the illness and following the death of our beloved husband and father, Larry Matthews. Your cards, calls, visits, and prayers were a great source of comfort. Thanks to Debbie Fisher & MaryRuth Boone for providing music at the service and to Pastor Michael for the wonderful message. God bless you all. Peggy Matthews and family

First United Methodist Church

W. Michael Woods, Pastor

P.O. Box 156
501 South Walnut Street
Dexter MO 63841


Phone: 573-624-3344
Fax: 573-624-1964
Youth Office: 573-624-2597
Wesley Hall: 573-624-8944
Email: umc-dexter@sbcglobal.net

We're on the Web!
www.umc-dexter.org

Nonprofit Org.
Postage Paid by
Permit #31
Dexter MO 63841

Next Issue - December 14

Address Correction Requested


Order Your Poinsettias

I would like to order _____ poinsettias at \$15 each.

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

Please include money with your order.

Children's Christmas Party

Kingdom Kids Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 14. The children will be picked up at school as usual and taken to the Skating Rink for the party. Parents should pick their children up at the rink at 5:00 p.m.



UMY Christmas Party

The UMY will have a joint Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 14, beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the Youth Loft. Bring a \$10 gift for Dirty Santa. Dinner will be provided.