



"A multi-cultural congregation
that is open to all."

Transformation Times

July 2011
Volume 1, Number 7

Project Shine at Dobbs Elementary School

Can you clean, paint, do minor repairs, make sandwiches, sew, greet people? Do you have two hours, four hours or six hours to spare?

If so, there is a job calling your name. Regardless of the amount of time you have available your help is needed for Project Shine. There will also be opportunities the week before to prep Dobbs Elementary so we can complete the work on Saturday, July 23.

If you can help with prep during the week, please indicate that on your sign-up form that is available in the Information Center. Crew members are developing their work teams now and need to know where you can help.



Summer T.N.T. - 8 Weeks of Singing, Learning and Praying

This summer, we are offering a come-and-go version of T.N.T. (Tuesday Nights Together). Reverend Bobbie Stone will teach one class, for all ages, studying eight of our favorite Bible stories:

1. Jesus with the children
2. Rahab the prostitute
3. The woman at the well
4. Healing of the leper
5. Friends who brought a sick man to Jesus
6. The sower and the seeds
7. Abigail, the intelligent, beautiful, ideal wife
8. Feeding the 5,000



There will be lots of singing, learning and praying **from 6 to 7:30pm, July 12 through August 30**. No meals, but plenty of cool, refreshing lemonade.

Summer sermon series July 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7 and 14. Topics:

- ✓ Evil
- ✓ Grief
- ✓ Relationships
- ✓ Grace
- ✓ Eternal Life
- ✓ Trinity

Based on the best-selling novel *The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity* by William Paul Young.

Invite family, friends and co-workers.



Reflections from Emonia

SUMMER ADVENTURE (June 6 through August 12)

As this article is written, we have entered week three of Summer Adventure and an adventure it has been! We average 60 children between kindergarten and sixth grade with our biggest concentration being the third and fourth grade. Below are a **few highlights** from the first two weeks.

The Missouri Health Department and Boys and Girls Club presented relevant teachings to the children. We divide into groups so the teaching was geared towards each learning level. The following topics were discussed:

- Bus and pedestrian safety
- Drug prevention
- Gun and fire safety
- Home, 911 and seatbelt safety (lead by the Kansas City Fire Department)
- Boss of my body
- Natural disasters and bike safety
- Bullying
- Sharing

We took two field trips to Peace Pavilion. At the Pavilion the children learned how to solve conflicts in a peaceful way and how to care for relationships as well as the earth. The tool given to us was:

- Stop • Think • Peace

On June 22, a field trip to Hallmark's Kaleidoscope was followed up with brown bag lunches and cooling off at the Crown Center Spray Park.

On June 17 the children wrote scripts dealing with what we have learned so far and then produced a puppet show or a stage production. If you were in church Sunday, June 19, you saw the product of their creativity. The older children also produced PowerPoint presentations that were awesome!

Much appreciation and thanks to Greg Gunter, Anthony Walker, Travis White, Stephanie Gonzales, Sue Kemp, Gayle Ledgerwood, Andrea McMurry, Maria Barton, Iothan Amayo, Edosa Amayo, Nekpen Amayo, Isla Jones, Zack Copelin, Camille Ainsworth, Ryan Barton, Jason Barton, Rosie Bailey, Baylee Houk-Watskey, Jennifer Brown, Colin Brown and Bryant Hardison who work with the campers. We also have ten University of Missouri - Kansas City students working various hours with the campers. In the kitchen we have Jeff Marcotte, Carol Goodall, Sue Lueckenhoff, Maudlean Anderson, Megan Gunn, Gail Russ and Bennie Russ. Bennie pulls double duty for us - after helping in the kitchen she teaches Bible study! Two summer interns from Global Ministries, Samantha Ruehl and Janelle Gayle, recently started with us as well. Also a special thanks to Gene Kirkpatrick and Jim Milburn for driving us to Peace Pavilion. Bob Love, Sue Love and Jerry Wilkes are doing great behind-the-scenes work.

Everyone listed does not work every day every hour, so that leaves plenty of room for you to join us as you can. You can work with the campers or in the kitchen. This is a great way to put your faith into action.

Be blessed and be a blessing,
Pastor E

What's Going On?



MEET US AT 'THE SHACK' FOR A SIX-WEEK SERMON SERIES

Have you read the paperback fictional bestseller, The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity by William Paul Young? I believe you will find the author's creative explanations on biblical themes enlightening and reassuring. We will discuss evil, grief, the Trinity, grace and eternal life during our summer sermon series on July 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7 and 14. Donna Hoch and Reverend Bobbie Stone will join Pastor Emonia and me in a panel discussion about Mack's relationships with God, his wife and children beginning Sunday, July 10. This will be a good day to invite un-churched relatives and friends.

"INVITING" OPPORTUNITIES

In support of our Three-Year Vision goals to make 25 new disciples by December 31, we offer the following events for everyone to invite un-churched people to social, memorial, fellowship and worship events. Save these dates through the end of the year:

- ✓ July 17 -- Summer Adventure midpoint celebration with parents.
- ✓ August 21 -- Back-to-school recognition with superintendent Dr. Marjorie Williams.
- ✓ September 11 -- 10th anniversary memorial for 9/11 tragedy.
- ✓ October 30 -- Pumpkin Fest holiday fun for the local community.
- ✓ November 6 -- Veteran's Day/Retire the Flags ceremony after worship.
- ✓ December 21 and 24 -- Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve services.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY FOR SUMMER INTERNS

Janelle Gayle from Brooklyn, New York and Samantha Ruehl from Whitewater, Wisconsin are two interns from the General Board of Global Ministries. They are here to work during Summer Adventure Day Camp. I am delighted they are serving in ministry with our 60-plus neighborhood kids. Be sure to let them know how much we appreciate their service. Since neither have visited Missouri before, let me know if you are willing to show them around town one Saturday. They will be here from June 19 to August 11. James and Mandy McConnico are serving as the host family. Also, thanks to the McMurrys for transportation. Speaking of interns, Deanna Bermudez, UMKC field education director, has expressed interest in providing teacher interns again for next year's Summer Adventure day camp. "I am hearing good things from the interns who are spending time with your program", she said. Interns must work 60 hours during the summer.

TAKE GOD ON VACATION

Don't forget to take God with you while you travel. Wherever you go, find a church to worship. We'll be praying for travel mercies to and from your destination. Remember our youth and sponsors in your prayers as they travel on the Volunteers in Ministry (VIM) trip to Sikeston.

See you in Church,
Pastor Londia

Reflections on Annual Conference by our Lay Delegates

From June 3 to 6 we attended the **2011 Missouri Annual Conference** held in Springfield. There were over 1,300 in attendance with about equal parts clergy and laity. We sat side-by-side as we heard the reports of the church, listened to the visioning for the future and worshipped. We witnessed the **ordination of 24 new elders and deacons** and heard the experiences of several clergy as they retired. As a bell tolled, we extended respect to those clergy and spouses who had passed away since last year. We heard about congregations in Missouri that are growing and we heard the reading of churches across the state that have closed their doors. Three of these are in our Heartland Central District: Epworth-Roanoke, Longview and New Hope.

We enjoyed the pageantry of the ordination ceremony, the inspiration of speakers and voices lifted in song and prayer at the worship service and the fellowship of sisters and brothers in Christ from across the state. We renewed old friendships with some delegates and made new friendships with others. But that was just the start of the conference experience.

The theme of the conference was *Extravagant Generosity*. At first hearing, we thought naturally of monetary giving, but that was just a part of the scope of generosity that we, the church, were encouraged to participate actively in. Two of the most moving presentations were given by Joplin pastors, Aaron Brown and Christopher Sloan as they thanked our conference for the outpouring of assistance - spiritually, monetarily and physically - from volunteers. Donations of health kits and cleaning buckets, food, water and clothing were greatly appreciated. They also related story after story of examples of generosity of service by their own members as they searched for loved ones and possessions in the shambles of homes of friends and neighbors. Their members shared homes, cars, food, clothing, emotional and spiritual support with their neighbors in need. One man actually let people, one after another, walk in his shoes to the door of the church so they wouldn't cut their feet on glass. Then Aaron's church, in the midst of their own need, made their donation to the conference project of water filtration systems for use in Haiti. There was not a dry eye in the room at this point.

This theme is also exemplified by an outpouring of the all-encompassing, overwhelming, extravagant generosity of God's love. His gifts surround us in the abundance and diversity of nature in our world - plants, animals, geography - and in the delights of our senses that surround us in what we see, hear, smell and feel. Most important is **the gift of grace and salvation** through the sacrifice of Jesus, his son that he freely gave. When you receive all this, you have to give something back and when you give it back you receive as well, as is recounted in 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. One speaker, Reverend Aubry Jones, challenged his congregations to experience this with their financial giving; to give from their meager resources and then experience the boomerang love of God - when "you throw it out and it comes right back". Time and time again he recounted how his congregations came back to life.

Extravagant Generosity was, again, **not just monetary, but in giving our time to work on mission projects.** We viewed information on mission trips for youth and heard of the Mozambique projects and some of their successes. One young man professed that after four years as a Christian he was **on fire for God** and had been on nine mission work trips!


We heard about the natural outpouring of all these blessings and that it should be a **generosity of witness** to share with others what you believe - to make new disciples. Does that sound familiar?

The conference was a wonderful experience for us and we thank you for the opportunity to represent St. Luke's. *Rita Miller, lay leader, and Joyce Eatherton, lay delegate*

P.S. from Rita:

As with any movie, sermon or presentation I attend, I go treasure hunting and listen for the nuggets that speak to my heart. One such wisdom that spoke to me was not necessarily on the theme. I'll paraphrase: **"Whatever you do or say, if you are not building up the church, you are building walls in the church"**. Perhaps, though, it is key - our focus as lay people and clergy should be on building up the church as we respond to God's generosity with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, time, talents, and witness.

July 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
|  | | <p>Notes and reminders: The Neighborhood Awareness Training sessions have been postponed. Rescheduling information will be communicated.</p> | | | 1 | 2 | 7-10am Country Breakfast |
| 3 Holy Communion 9:30am Blood Pressure Check | 4 Office Closed NO Summer Adventure | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2-4pm Popsicles in the Park |
| 10 Founders' Day 5:30pm Joanna Cir. Youth Work Trip to Sikeston, Missouri | 11 6:45pm Staff Meeting. | 12 Summer TNT Begins | 13 6pm Summer Adventure Parent Supper | 14 1pm WOW Circle 7pm Susanna Cir. | 15 9pm Pictures in the Park | 16 | |
| 17 Summer Adventure Sunday 12:15pm Singles Lunch Out | 18 7pm LIFE Circle 7pm Book Group | 19 | 20 | 21 9:30am Hannah & Rebekah Circles | 22 | 23 | 8-5pm Project Shine |
| 24 | 25 6:30 Church Council | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| 31 | Sunday Monday - Friday | 8am Prayer Group; 8:30 & 11am Worship; 9:50am Sunday School; 5pm Youth Summer Adventure/Vacation Bible School | | | | | |
| | Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday | 10:45am Contemplative Prayer; 6pm TNT; 7pm Boy Scout Troop 110 9am Quilters; 6pm Wed. Jam; 6:30pm Prayer Group 7pm Devoted Stitchers 7pm Celebrate Recovery | | | | | |

MINISTRY UPDATES FROM OUR STAFF

A message from [Sue Love](#), missions director

Proceeds from the July Country Breakfast and July Communion will be dedicated to Project Shine. Invite a neighbor or friend to breakfast in July and support Project Shine.



The Community Assistance Council (CAC) food drive topped the 500 item goal thanks to your generosity during the month of June. Thank you!

A message from [Jerry Cornell](#), facilities director

We continue to identify maintenance opportunities and I want to thank everyone who has contributed their time and talents on these projects.

One major undertaking was the upgrading of the fire alarm system which is now monitored, like the security system. It will be completed this month.

With the warm weather, air conditioning is necessary. Please be responsible in adjusting the thermostats in order to keep the utility costs down.

I am currently researching lighting alternatives for the parking lot. This project will increase the intensity of the lights and will be completed this fall.

A message from [Jason Dattilo](#), youth ministry director

The youth will be going on their **work trip** from July 10 to 17 to Sikeston, Missouri. There are currently seven youth signed up to go on the trip.

Six youth are currently going through **Confirmation classes**. As part of this process, they have been learning about church history, God, Jesus and their own faith journeys. We appreciate the parents and adult mentors for their commitment and assistance to help our young people further their understanding of their Christian faith.

A message from [Donna Gregory](#), early childhood director

Hello from the Early Education Center!



After being inside through such a long winter, we are really enjoying our outside playtime this summer. We made gifts for our fathers in June and learned a lot about other countries. Our older children even learned to say "Hello" in Swahili, Japanese, Chinese, and Spanish.

In July we will celebrate our country's birthday, have a clown parade and play in the sprinkler. A few openings are available in full-time care for children three and under. We are also enrolling for part-time morning preschool to begin September 6. Call me at 816-763-8507 for more information about either program.

**The Neighborhood Awareness Training sessions have been postponed.
Rescheduling information will be communicated.**

Church Council Meeting

In the midst of the busy summer and all of the activities at St. Luke's, don't forget the next **Church Council Meeting Monday, July 25 in Ragan Hall at 6:30pm.**

Take the opportunity to hear the reports of your pastors and church officers as they deal with the administrative business of our congregation and conference. Additionally, be reminded of your opportunity to be in conversation with the Council concerning the workings of the church. All members are encouraged to participate.

See you there - [Garry Kemp](#), chairperson

Relief Kits

During the month of July, all of the churches within the Missouri Conference are asked to donate **relief kits** for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Creative Ministries. This ministry is sponsored by St. Luke's United Methodist Women (UMW).



Each kit should contain the following:

| | | |
|--|-------------------|--|
| One flouride toothpaste, 6 oz. or more | One washcloth | Two disposable razors |
| One bottle of shampoo (11-14 oz.) | One deodorant | One bath size bar of soap |
| One bottle of skin lotion (11-14 oz.) | One hand towel | Packages of feminine products (tampons, all sizes and Always products) |
| One toothbrush in original, upopened package | One comb or brush | |

Items should be placed in a large, two gallon, zip lock bag. Bags should be labeled **Personal Hygiene Pack** and placed in the wall cabinet by the west glass doors.

Inviting Activity - Great Fun

Many thanks to those who worked last month's Pictures in the Park. There were about 50 to 60 kids and their parents in Ragan Park that hot summer night. A Summer Adventure family won the giveaway gift basket. Free movie, popcorn and cool drinks were enjoyed by all.

We appreciate those who staffed the event: Dana Jones, Donna Brown, Chris Waddell, Jessica Waddell, Barbara Chevalier, Sue Kemp and Garry Kemp.

Credit Union Membership

If you would like to join the United Methodist Federal Credit Union go to the Web site: www.umfcu.org. The Missouri branch office phone number is 816-229-8156 and is located at 301 SW Woods Chapel Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015-3325. Sharon Burns, branch manager, can be reached at sharon@umfcu.org.

Staff

Lead Pastor: Londia Granger Wright
 Associate Pastor: Emonia Barnett
 Pastoral Assistant: Bobbie Stone
 Adult Ministry: Sue Kemp
 Youth Ministry: Jason Dattilo
 Missions: Sue Love
 Community Health: Barb Bruns
 Communications: Angela Fleming
 Office: Andrea McMurry
 Facilities: Jerry Cornell
 Early Childhood: Donna Gregory
 Music Director: Keith Curington

Our Mission:

To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision:

Invite, Grow, Serve.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Welcome **Kaleiyah LeeAnn Ritter-Payne** who was baptized on May 29.

Her proud parents are Danielle Ritter and Kenny Payne. Deidre and Morris Ross are her grandparents.



Welcome **Robin Elaine Bentley** who joined the church on June 12. Robin is the daughter of Earline Bentley.

Popsicles in the Park is back!

Come with the family and invite your friends for a fun event in our church backyard on Saturday, July 9 from 2 to 4pm. Help make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world! Contact [Carey Armstrong](#) at 816-914-3079 for more information.



Pictures in the Park
Movie: Kung Fu Panda

Invite friends, family and co-workers to join you on Friday, July 15 at 9pm.